

Housing commitment burdens Israeli budget

TEL AVIV (R) — The new Israeli government's obligations to buy empty housing started by its predecessor has undermined hopes of a quick economic dividend from curbing Jewish settlement of the occupied territories.

Central Bank Governor Jacob Frenkel told Reuters in an interview Monday the housing obligations inherited from the hardline Likud government would be a burden on the 1993 budget.

"In the existing budget, there is a very large section of outlays that are reflecting past commitments," Mr. Frenkel said.

"In the past when the government wished to encourage housing, it provided the contractors with buy-back guarantees. It's a big commitment on the budget and especially when we look at this coming year when the budget is so strained."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin won election in June with a promise to divert money from housing (settlements), especially in the occupied territories, to invest in the domestic economy and reduce 11 per cent unemployment.

Critics have assailed his 1993 budget proposal submitted for cabinet debate Sunday, saying it did not deliver the promised reordering of national priorities.

The previous Likud government of Yitzhak Shamir lavished money on housing it said was needed for an influx of immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

But demand fell when immigration dropped sharply. Many homes were also built in unpopu-

Italy probes report of waste-dumping in Somalia

MOGADISHU (R) — Italy is investigating allegations that some of its companies took advantage of anarchy in Somalia to dump toxic waste in its waters, visiting Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo said Tuesday.

"It is difficult to get information on this here but we are investigating it," Mr. Colombo told reporters on the second day of a peace mission to the shattered nation.

The leaders of Somalia's two main factions have both complained that Italian companies, under cover of the chaos in Somalia caused by 20 months of civil strife, dumped waste off its Indian Ocean coastline.

Enrico Salmis, one of the country's many warlords, is taking money in return for allowing the dumping. Details are vague but it has become one of the few issues on which both major Somali warlords agree.

Mr. Colombo said the matter was being studied by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which is based in Kenya and monitors the disposal of toxic substances worldwide.

The Italian minister left Mogadishu Tuesday for Bardere, southwest Somalia, the headquarters of warlord Mohammed Farah Aided, who, with his allies, controls south Mogadishu and about two thirds of the country.

Mr. Colombo's is the most important visit to Somalia since it collapsed into anarchy after the overthrow of dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in January 1991.

He is seeking to bring General Aided and his rival, self-styled President Ali Mahdi Mohammed,

5 missing foreigners probably in Iraq

KUWAIT (R) — Five foreigners who have gone missing while working close to Kuwait's frontier with Iraq are believed to be in Iraq, diplomats said Tuesday.

A Philippines diplomat said a Pakistani and a Filipino who went missing 20 days ago while helping clear mines in northern Kuwait were probably across the border in Iraq.

In Stockholm, the Foreign Ministry said two Swedish diplomats were travelling to Baghdad to seek information on three Swedes missing in the border area since Thursday.

The Swedes are engineers employed by L.M. Ericsson, a telephone company. A member of the U.N. peacekeeping force said they were seen being taken into Iraq.

Asked if the missing Pakistani and Filipino were likely to be in Iraq, Remyaz Khan, C. Macapundag, head of the assistance to nationals section of the Philippines embassy in Kuwait, told Reuters, "That is what is reported to us by their company."

However, Ali Al Ajmi, chairman and managing director of the Kuwait Transport Company that employed the men, would not speculate on whether they were in Iraq.

"My people have been missing at the border for 20 days," he said. "If they were in Kuwait they must have appeared by now."

He identified the Pakistani as Gul Azam Khan, 37, and the Filipino as Nicanor Factoran, 48.

Mr. Ajmi said the men disappeared on Aug. 20 after leaving their homes in Al Jahra City, 35 kilometres west of Kuwait City, to help clear mines left by Iraqi troops about three kilometres from the border at Umm Qasr.

The Iraqis laid thousands of land mines during their seven-month occupation of Kuwait, before U.S.-led allied forces drove them out.

The men were operating a 60-tonne machine and a tractor worth 70,000 dinars (\$240,000) which have also disappeared.

Mr. Macapundag said his embassy had informed the Philippines embassy in Baghdad about Mr. Factoran's disappearance and said the ambassador there had asked the Iraqi authorities to let him meet him if he showed up. The ambassador had also requested the help of the Red Cross in Baghdad to trace the Filipino.

Baghdad authorities had not confirmed that the missing men were in Iraq, Mr. Macapundag said.

Swedish officials say Iraqi diplomats have said they cannot confirm the missing Swedes are in Iraq.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iranian delegation meets Chinese leaders

PEKING (AP) — An Iranian military delegation met with Chinese officials Tuesday to discuss further military cooperation between the two countries, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported. In a brief dispatch, Xinhua said the Iranian group held talks with Zhao Nanqi, director of the General Logistics Department of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. The arrival of the Iranian group sets the stage for the Sept. 9-12 official visit of Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani. Mr. Rafsanjani, has been invited by his Chinese counterpart, President Yang Shangkun. Mr. Yang travelled to Iran late last year on the first official visit to that country by a Chinese head of state since the 1979 Islamic revolution there. China was a major arms supplier to Iran during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war. It has also sold nuclear technology to Iran, but says it was only for peaceful purposes and that the two countries are not involved in a nuclear weapons programme.

Kazakhstan 'will not sell nuclear weapons'

TEL AVIV (AP) — The prime minister of Kazakhstan told Israeli leaders Monday his country would not sell any of the nuclear weapons that it inherited with the breakup of the Soviet Union. Sergei Tereschenko, the first premier of a Muslim republic of the former Soviet Union to visit Israel, made the statement to President Chaim Herzog and later repeated it on Israeli Radio. "Nuclear weapons will not be sold, not to Iran or any other country. Kazakhstan is peace-loving. Israel has nothing to worry about," Mr. Tereschenko told the radio. Mr. Tereschenko, who arrived in Israel Sunday night for a three-day visit, met Monday with Mr. Herzog and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Mr. Tereschenko told Mr. Rabin he wanted Israeli technology and economic and agricultural expertise to help develop his country, which is the largest of the Muslim republics and is rich in natural resources. Mr. Rabin and Mr. Tereschenko agreed to set up a joint committee to consolidate economic projects, a statement from Mr. Rabin's office said. Mr. Herzog's office said that the Kazakhstan premier told the president that he hoped to end his visit to Israel by signing trade agreements with the Jewish state.

Strong quake rocks southern Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — A strong earthquake shook the southern Iranian province of Fars Tuesday, killing at least one person and injuring three others, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the quake occurred at 5:10 a.m. (0040 GMT) and that it was centred 110 kilometres south of the provincial capital of Shiraz. It said the city of Firuzabad, 90 kilometres south of Shiraz, was shaken and that there was "heavy damage" to houses in a nearby village. The village was not named. "Two relief and medical care teams have been rushed to the area," IRNA said. It said the tremor was felt in Shiraz and in Kazerun, 90 kilometres to the west. Earlier, Tehran radio said the quake measured 5.5 on the Richter scale, according to readings at the seismological centre in Shiraz. A quake of that magnitude can cause considerable damage. The Richter scale is a gauge of the energy released by an earthquake as measured by the ground motion recorded on a seismograph.

Tunis says official media open to opposition

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's six legal opposition parties will have their views aired on state radio and television and by the state news agency, a government official said Monday. Fethi Houari, secretary of state for information, told a news conference that statements of opposition parties "would be exploited (by the official media) when they respect the high interests of the country, especially regarding the foreign relations." Tunisia usually gives the opposition access to official media only during election periods. Mohammad Boucinha, an official of the opposition Popular Unity Party who attended the news conference, welcomed the announcement but was sceptical of what it would accomplish. "We have heard such promises in the past," he said.

U.S. navy chief meets UAE military leaders

DUBAI (R) — Rear-Admiral Raynor Taylor, commander of U.S. naval forces in the Gulf, met United Arab Emirates (UAE) naval and air force commanders in Abu Dhabi on Monday, Emirates News Agency reported. Adm. Taylor held separate talks with Brigadier Rashid Al Riyami, commander of UAE air forces and air defence, and Brigadier Hazza Al Darmaki, commander of UAE naval forces, he said. The agency said the talks covered military subjects of mutual interest but gave no further details. U.S. warplanes from the aircraft carrier USS Independence in the northern Gulf are currently enforcing a no-fly zone over southern Iraq.

Sofia uncovers 'illegal' shipments to Iraq

SOFIA (R) — Bulgarian officials said Monday they had uncovered illegal arms exports to Iraq worth more than \$15 million, shipped between December 1991 and March 1992. The shipments consisted of Bulgarian-manufactured anti-aircraft and anti-tank guns, the officials said. "Between December 1991 and March 1992 arms were exported to Iraq with forged documents stating the Philippines as the final destination," Georgi Bozhduganov from the government commission for arms-trade told Reuters. "The trade was carried out with the permission of the arms trade commission, then headed by Defence Minister Dimitar Luchezhev, through intermediary firms from Poland," he added. Mr. Luchezhev was asked to resign in May by Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov under suspicion of permitting arms exports to anti-Western regimes. He denied the charges. Bulgaria was once one of the biggest former communist bloc arms exporters to pro-communist regimes in the Middle East and Africa, but most plants now work at less than half capacity. The commission for arms trade is currently controlled by Prime Minister Dimitrov. Government officials said a shipment of arms was seized in the Black Sea port of Varna Sunday, after suspicion that the final destination stated in the documents was false. They have no further details.

Kuwait opposition group seeks reform of executive

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's main opposition group contesting October general elections called Monday for the role of crown prince to be separated from that of prime minister.

"We'd like to separate the two positions because it stands as an obstacle for any reforms and it hinders the process of governmental changes," Abdullah Al Naibari, head of the Kuwait Democratic Forum, told a news conference.

Mr. Naibari, a former member of parliament, and seven other candidates were launching the manifesto of the group, contesting eight out of 50 seats in national assembly polls on Oct. 5.

"Our programme suggests reforming the executive power by insist-

ing on ... separation of crown prince-ship from the post of premier," he said, reading from a statement.

Government officials were not available to comment on the proposal. Kuwait's crown prince and prime minister is Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

Mr. Naibari also said his group would press for a committee of public inquiry in the parliament to probe what he called "failure, negligence and carelessness shown by persons in authority before and during the invasion."

Iraq troops took only a few hours to reach Kuwait City when they invaded on Aug. 2, 1990. U.S.-led allied forces drove them out seven months later.

Diplomats estimate that the Democratic Forum, who say they want greater pluralism within the government, may win only three or four seats in the new National Assembly.

The remainder will go to candidates representing tribal groups, Shiites and Sunni Muslims, fundamentalists, merchants and independents, they said.

Kuwait's opposition says the ruling family, which dissolved parliament in 1986, did not want a new legislative body that would question its failure to defend Kuwait from Iraqi forces.

But officials say the government is determined to introduce democracy.

The United States and its Western allies had voiced their strong will for political reform

Israeli report refutes German version of '72 Munich attack

TEL AVIV (R) — One of the victims of the killing of Israelis at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games was alive for about an hour after the firefight that killed most of his colleagues, the athletes' families lawyer said Monday.

Israel Television, which broadcast an investigative report on the disputed German rescue operation, showed copies of documents it said Bavarian authorities had claimed were lost or destroyed five years ago.

Palestinian guerrillas stormed into the Israeli quarters at the 1972 Summer Olympics, killing two athletes and taking nine hostages.

Police tried to rescue the hostages from a helicopter but failed. All nine died along with five Palestinians and a policeman.

A German newspaper reported last week key documents on the incident were discovered missing from prosecutors' files after an Israeli press report said the athletes were killed by police bullets, and not by their kidnappers as officials said.

Lawyer Pinhas Zeltser said pathologists reports made available to him by unnamed Germans showed athlete David Berger was alive for about an hour after the firing stopped.

"He could have been saved — while those responsible for the (rescue) operation were giving a news conference he was still alive, he could have been saved, they simply left him to be suffocated by the smoke."

He said documents showed Bavarian security authorities decided to go ahead with the rescue "even though they knew it would fail and it could be assessed that all the athletes would die if they did it as planned, they wanted to hide this from us."

18 months after war, Baghdad is rebuilt, but problems linger

By Victoria Graham
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Eighteen months after the last allied bomb dropped in the Gulf war, virtually all the damage in Iraq's capital has been repaired. The nightclubs and discos are jammed, and men still hunt with falcons on the city's desert outskirts.

The bazaars are crowded. People frequent the restaurants along the banks of the Tigris River to eat savory mutton — a grouper-like fish found in the Tigris.

There has been a rush of weddings, some of them extravagantly expensive. The blare of brass bands and the women's celebratory ululating fill the hot night air.

But while memories of the war fade, there is anxiety about the current confrontation with the West and a sense that this city may look the same, but underneath people

are nervous about the future," said a middle-aged woman named Hoda, fearful she would be criticised for speaking to a foreign reporter.

She said her daughter's wedding had been postponed because of the war. But in spite of high costs, it is going ahead — although less lavishly and with fewer guests.

There is apprehension about the worsening economic situation — the acute shortage of staple foods and imports, the lack of medicine caused by the U.N. blockade.

Skyrocketing prices, more than allied overflights in the south and the fears of partition, are the burning topics.

Resentment against the allies is widespread among Iraq's 17 million people as more and more slip below the poverty line. For the poor, the elderly and children, life is made by increasing unemployment, illness and malnutrition.

Health Minister Omid Medhet Mubarak said last week that 85,943 Iraqis, nearly 25,000 of them children under 5, died from disease and hunger last year.

At the Mansour Children's Hospital, three-year-old Amar may well be on his deathbed. He is ashen and skeletal, weighs only six kilograms, and suffers from severe malnutrition, gastroenteritis and chronic diarrhoea.

His farming family cannot afford enough food or formula. A lack of chlorine, prohibited by the sanctions, means Amar's drinking water is impure.

It is his fourth trip to the hospital, where he gets a little more food and care before returning to the same poverty. There may not be a fifth chance to save his life.

As conditions deteriorate, robbery is on the rise. Auto theft is a major problem.

The government-controlled press has mounted a campaign against the popularity of night

clubs and discos. They say these pleasure palaces corrode national morale when the country is under threat.

Yet on the surface, life goes on as before. Mercedes-Benzes and other luxury cars that once had Kuwaiti licence plates are a common sight.

The allies' "no-fly" order for Iraqi aircraft south of the 32nd Parallel took effect Aug. 27. Many in Baghdad breathed a sigh of relief after it became clear that the allies were not planning to bomb again and that the regime apparently did not intend to invite a new conflict.

But every day, the capital's four million people are exhorted to be valiant and self-reliant.

In Baghdad, virtually all the Gulf war damage has been repaired or rebuilt. That includes the 12 bridges over the muddy Tigris that flows through this historic city founded 1,200 years ago.

The electrical and water systems have been restored. The bombed-out Defence Ministry has a splendid new home. Some of the new architecture is striking.

Although Soviet-made anti-aircraft guns bristle atop tall buildings and there is a museum to remind people of the death and destruction the allies caused last year, it is difficult for the visitor to see there was a war.

The animal market on Al Jamhuriya street bustles every Friday with men selling parakeets and puppies for pets, chickens and rabbits for food and falcons and fighting cocks for sport.

Last Friday, Ahmad Abdul Kadir, an Agriculture Ministry clerk, was selling two falcons each for 1,000 dinars. That's \$33 at the official rate of 3-1, less at the black-market rate, which varies between 18 and 31 per dollar.

"Everything's okay," he said. "We still go out hunting for birds and deer outside Baghdad. What else can we do? Why stay home and worry?"

At the Al Shorja market downtown, there are plenty of seeds and colourful aromatic spices, dates and pomegranates, but few staples.

Imported Western goods are rare. There are fewer smuggled items from Jordan and Turkey than there were a few months ago.

There is clothing from Turkey, Pakistan, China, Taiwan and Indonesia, but stocks are running low.

Sales of most consumer goods are down, except among the pampered elite.

Some trendy — For Baghdad — boutiques are still open, like Tomato and Al Azzal in the fashionable Al Ararat quarter. But the Golden Age men's store no longer stocks Paris fashions.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME

18:00	Le Monde est a vous
19:00	News in French
19:15	Interpique
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Saved by the Bell
21:10	Man of the People
22:00	News in English
22:30	The Making of a Hero

PRAYER TIMES

04:52	Fajr
06:11	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:33	Dhuhr
16:47	'Asr
19:55	Maghrib
20:15	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh, Tel. 810740

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823624, 654932

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 26, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 61 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

MINI/MAX TEMP.

Amman	16/26
Aqaba	22/34
Dorcas	14/30
Jordan Valley	21/33

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Farouq Noor	786680
Dr. Zeln Zaghoul	638591
Dr. Joseph Issah	770580
Dr. Nidal Issa	691011
Fine's pharmacy	661912
Fordous pharmacy	778336
Al Asmaa pharmacy	637825
Najoudh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmoizani pharmacy	637660

IRBID:

Dr. Mohammad Tami	(-)
Al Sharaa pharmacy	(275825)

ZARQA:

Dr. Abdel Karim Khashashneh	(-)
Khalil pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
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FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:30	Sanaa (Y)
11:30	Cairo (M)
12:30	Sharjah, Abu Dhabi (G)
12:30	Tunis, Damascus (A)
12:30	Damascus (M)
12:30	Beirut (M)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00	Aden (R)
06:00	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (R)
06:00	Jeddah (R)
06:00	Larnaca (R)
06:00	Damascus (R)
06:00	Doha, Bahrain (R)
06:00	Jeddah (R)
06:00	Madrid (R)
06:00	London (R)
06:00	Cairo (R)
06:00	Frankfurt (R)
06:00	Isabul (R)
06:00	New York, Amsterdam (R)
06:00	Brussels, Paris (R)
06:00	Madrid, Geneva (R)
06:00	Rome, Tunis (R)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in file per kg.

Apple (red)	700/600
Banana	500/450
Broom (Mushroom)	450/400
Beans	400/350
Cabbage	130/100
Carrot	450/350
Cauliflower	260/200
Cucumber (large)	140/100
Cucumbers (small)	280/220
Eggplant	90/70
Garlic	600/500
Lemon	240/200
Marrow (large)	160/100
Marrow (small)	240/200
Onion (dry)	100/80
Onion (green)	150/100
Pepper (hot)	200/150
Pepper (sweet)	150/100
Potato	300/250
Tomato	400/300
Fig	400/300
Grape	500/450

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00	Madrid (R)
06:00	Damascus (R)
06:00	Rome (R)
06:00	Berlin, London (R)
06:00	Tunis, Damascus (R)
06:00	Isabul (R)
06:00	Amsterdam, New York (R)
06:00	Cairo (R)
06:00	Columbus (R)
06:00	Riyadh (R)
06:00	Dhahran (R)
06:00	New Delhi (R)
06:00	Calcutta, Bangkok (R)
06:00	Abu Dhabi (R)
06:00	Dubai (R)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:30	Sanaa (Y)
11:30	Karachi (Y)
11:30	Jeddah (Y)

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King receives cable of good wishes from Swedish monarch

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a cable from King Carl Gustaf of Sweden congratulating him on the success of the surgery he underwent and wishing him continued good health.

Regent congratulates N. Korea

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday sent a cable to North Korean President Kim Il-Sung congratulating him on the anniversary of the establishment of the republic. Prince Hassan wished Mr. Kim good health and happiness and the Korean people further progress and prosperity.

Prince Hassan offers condolences for CDD director

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday visited the house of director of the Civil Defence Department (CDD) Major General Afif Al Ghoul to offer his condolences over the death of his brother, Abdul Fattah Al Ghoul.

CSCC to open new branch in Mafrak

MAFRAQ (Petra) — The Civil Service Consumer Corporation (CSCC) has decided to open a new branch in Manshiyat Bani Hassan town in Al Mafrak governorate. The new branch will be serving government employees in areas west of Mafrak.

Finance Minister visits JUST

RAMTHA (Petra) — Finance Minister Basel Jarrah Tuesday visited the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) where he met with its President Kamel Al Ajlouni. Mr. Jarrah was briefed by Dr. Ajlouni on the university's future plans and its contributions to developing the local society. Jarrah's visit to the university follows a decision by JUST to assist Al Ramtha border post in conducting lab tests on imported goods. The minister toured the university's various facilities and departments, including the King Abdullah Hospital project and the laboratories and workshops. Mr. Jarrah was accompanied on the visit by the governor of Irbid, the Customs Department director general and several officials.

Ambassador to Yemen presents credentials

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's new Ambassador to Yemen Ahmad Al Adhleh Tuesday presented his credentials to Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Aryan who praised Jordanian-Yemeni relations and inquired about the health of His Majesty King Hussein.

Jordan, Poland discuss cooperation in air transport

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Poland Wednesday discussed bilateral relations in air transport at a meeting held at the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Discussions, which will last for three days, will focus on relations in civil aviation and air transport between the two countries with the objective of reaching an agreement on air transport between the governments of Jordan and Poland. The Jordanian side to the meetings was headed by CAA Director General Ahmad Juweir and included representatives from the CAA, the Ministry of Transport and Royal Jordanian (RJ). The Polish side was headed by director general of civil aviation and included representatives from the concerned authorities in Poland. The Polish delegation arrived in Amman Monday.

Social development seminar opens in Maan

MAAN (Petra) — A seminar entitled, "The Role of the Ministry of Social Development and the National Aid Fund (NAF) in Developing the Local Society" was held Tuesday at Princess Basma Social Services Centre in Maan. Director of Maan Social Development Department Saleh Al Suqour, who participated in the seminar, said the Ministry of Social Development is keen to offer its services wherever they are needed. Mr. Suqour said the ministry extends to aid the needy in Jordan in the form of recurrent assistance. He stressed the role of women in the development process, saying women play a key role in family planning. Several specialists took part in the seminar.

Al Quds Hospital, cement factory organise medical day

AMMAN (Petra) — Al Quds Hospital and the Medical Management of Al Rashadiyeh Cement Factories Company will organise a free medical day at the company site in Tafleh Sept. 11. The day is held on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's recovery from the surgery he underwent last month.

UJ, Libyan University discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Libyan Qar Younis University Tuesday visited the University of Jordan (UJ) received by the Dean of the Scientific Research at the University Humam Ghaseeb. Dr. Ghaseeb briefed the delegation on the establishment and development of the university and its role in supporting scientific research projects carried out by its teaching staff members with the aim of serving the development process in Jordan and the Arab World. He also outlined to the delegation the role of the Scientific Research Deanship in publishing researches and documentary studies on the history of Jordan, Palestine and Lebanon. The visiting delegation was also received by Dean of the Faculty of Post-Graduate Studies Waleed Al Maani. The meeting discussed ways of promoting cooperation between the faculty and Qar Younis University.

Committee receives more donations

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian citizens and companies Tuesday continued to offer donations to a national committee formed in response to a call by His Majesty King Hussein to divert funds to be sent on celebrating recovery to charity. The committee Tuesday received JD 15,000 from Mr. Eidan Al Nimr, JD 10,000 from Al Zakat Fund, JD 3,000 from Al Jabali and Brothers Company, JD 2,000 from the Jordan Worsteds Mills Company, JD 1,000 from Saeed Malhas and Sons Company, and JD 1,000 from the Jordan Cooking Industries Company.

Workers' delegation back from Iraq

ZARQA (Petra) — A delegation representing the Association of Workers in Petrochemical Industries returned from Baghdad Tuesday after a several-day visit to Iraq to get familiarised with the ongoing reconstruction process there. Association member Khalid Al Zayoud said the delegation visited several ministries and government departments which were bombed by the U.S.-led alliance during the Gulf War. The delegation also held talks with officials from the Iraqi General Federation of Professional Unions.

Date set for Maan elections

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzaq Tubaishat has set Dec. 16 as the day for municipal elections in Maan. According to the minister's decision, nominations for the elections will start Dec. 8-10. Dr. Tubaishat appointed Maan Deputy Governor Mohammad Al Na'imat to supervise the election. The minister has also announced that Al Ruweisid town municipal elections will be held Nov. 17 and Rawdat Basma town municipal elections will be held on Nov. 24. Ruweisid and Rawdat Basma are in Mafrak governorate.

Country observes holiday to mark Prophet's birthday

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will observe a public holiday today, Wednesday, to mark the Prophet Mohammad's Birthday. and the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Tuesday organised a major religious ceremony at the Palace of Culture to celebrate the occasion.

Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat addressed the ceremony on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, saying that Muslims should follow in the footsteps of Prophet Mohammad in words and deeds. Dr. Arabiyat praised the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation forces in the occupied Arab territories, saying these "freedom fighters continue to defend the Al Aqsa Mosque and other holy shrines against Israeli attempts to desecrate them."



Finance Minister Basel Jarrah (centre) Tuesday inaugurates new facilities at Ramtha customs centre (Petra photo)

Enlarged customs centre offers merchants new services

RAMTHA (J.T.) — Finance Minister Basel Jarrah Tuesday opened the enlarged customs centre at the border post of Ramtha near the Syrian Borders and announced that the new facility will benefit trade between Jordan and neighbouring countries.

The new customs centre will clear imported goods destined for merchants in Amman and other parts of the country without referring them for inspection to the central offices in Amman, said the Minister in an address at the inauguration ceremony.

The centre will continue to offer facilities for transit trade between Jordan and other countries, and speed up the flow of goods passing through Jordanian territory, said the minister. Customs Department Director Mohammad Al Jamal told the Jordan Times that 500-square

metre warehouse, built at the cost of JD45,000 to store incoming imported goods was added to the centre. He said that the huge yards surrounding it also will keep the goods until they are cleared.

The main purpose of the expansion is to offer more facilities for the merchants and transit business, said Mr. Jamal. He said the Customs Department sought to establish a decentralised authority, granting additional powers to customs officers at the centre.

The customs post at Ramtha, said Mr. Jamal, serves as the main gate for the Kingdom from the north and a main transit point for goods from Arab and international markets in the region. Several Parliament members and the Governor of Irbid were present at the inauguration ceremony.

336 literacy centres opened this year

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education this year opened 636 adult and literacy to offer education to nearly 10,862 citizens, according to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi.

The cost of these centres, which employ 636 teachers, is estimated at JD 230,000, said the minister in a statement Tuesday marking the International Day for the Eradication of Illiteracy. "It is hoped that these centres will help reduce by at least one per cent annually the present 19 per cent illiteracy rate in the Kingdom," said the minister in his statement delivered on his behalf by the Ministry's Director of Education Thouqan Hindawi.

He said that Jordan hopes to reduce the rate of illiteracy to eight per cent by 2000. In a statement Sunday, Dr. Obaidat said the Ministry of Education was keen on reducing the rate of illiterate persons in view of the negative aspects illiteracy can have on socio-economic development. He said the rate of illiteracy in Jordan has dropped from 67.7 per cent in 1961 to 19 per cent at the end of 1990.

Jordan, Bulgaria hold trade talks

SOFIA (Petra) — Minister of Supply Mohammad Saqqaf Tuesday held talks with Bulgaria's Deputy Prime Minister on the prospects for increasing his country's purchases of Jordanian national products.

Mr. Saqqaf, who is visiting European countries to purchase products for Civil Service Consumer Corporation (CSCC) and the ministry's warehouses called on Bulgaria to increase its imports of Jordanian fertilisers, phosphate and potash in a bid to adjust the present trade balance between Amman and Sofia, which, he said, was heavily in favour of Bulgaria.

Mr. Saqqaf had earlier met with the country's ministers of industry, trade, and agriculture to discuss bilateral trade. He said that the Bulgarian officials had urged the convening of a meeting by the Joint Jordanian-Bulgarian Committee as soon as possible. Later, Mr. Saqqaf and his accompanying delegation discussed Bulgarian sales of beef and live sheep of high quality to Jordan.

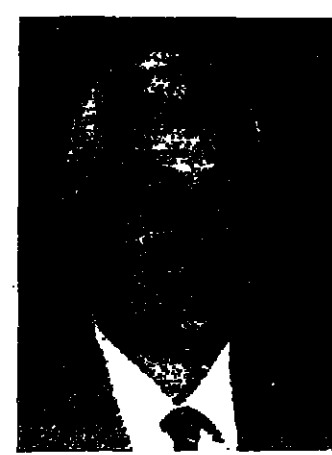
Abu Jaber returns home, hails NAM summit as a 'major success'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber returned to Amman from Indonesia Tuesday and announced that the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit meeting, which ended on Sept. 6 was a "major success."

"For the first time the summit discussed various topics with objectivity, something unknown in the previous summits; and the meetings were well prepared by the foreign ministers of the participating countries," Dr. Abu Jaber said in a statement.

Dr. Abu Jaber said His Majesty King Hussein's address to the meeting, delivered on his behalf by Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, won wide support in the conference.

Dr. Abu Jaber said that the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question were discussed in depth at the meeting. He said delegates voiced their support for the Palestinian people's right to self determination, saying peace in the Middle East should be based on international legitimacy and the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to the conflict. "We vigorously support the



Kamel Abu Jaber

legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people to secure their inalienable rights and independence and the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab lands," the summit said Sunday in its final communique.

Dr. Abu Jaber said the summit discussed the situation in Bosnia Hercegovina, demanding that the aggression stop, the occupying forces be pulled out from illegally held territory and the United Nations mission facilitated. The summit also appealed for interna-

tional help to be provided to the Somali people who are facing starvation, he added.

The minister said the delegates stressed the need for increasing cooperation among countries in the Southern Hemisphere and for stimulating cooperation between the countries of the North and the South.

"Sustained economic development in the North is not possible in the absence of stability and development in the South," the final communique said. "The countries of the south cannot achieve their development goals if the policies of the North are not conducive to a global environment that would facilitate this objective," it said.

The NAM was founded in 1961 to counter the influence of the Cold War adversaries. The 118-member movement and observer nations represent two-thirds of the world's population.

Mr. Lawzi, who led the Jordanian delegation and delivered the King's speech to the conference, has left Jakarta for Sweden to attend the meetings of the International Parliamentary Union which opened on Sept. 5 and will end on Sept. 12.

Municipality conducts tests on water, foodstuffs to ensure adherence to regulations

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman Municipality said Tuesday that water supplied and used within the Amman region for different purposes is of good quality and that regular tests are conducted to ensure that good quality is maintained under all circumstances.

Dr. Ali Al Ibrahim, director of the municipality's food and environmental Control Department, said that inspectors from his department last month conducted tests on 104 water wells owned by the public sector, seven privately-owned wells, 21 public water tanks, 30 water networks, 27 samples of mineral water and 63 samples of water taken from swimming pools, and found that only four samples did not conform to the standard and specifications. The deficient samples were from swimming pools, he said.

Owners of these public pools were issued warnings and two of the swimming pools were closed due to failure to abide by the public health regulations, Mr. Ibrahim said.

He said the owners of the four pools will be fined for the violations. In the past month, the department also conducted tests on 309 samples of milk and milk products, bread of different types, sweets, fat, oil, spices and chocolates. Tests proved that 12 sam-

ples did not conform to the given specifications while four samples proved unfit for human consumption, according to Mr. Ibrahim.

He said that tests for germs were conducted on 223 samples of various kinds of food stuffs, and three samples were unfit for human consumption.

According to Mr. Ibrahim, a total of 60 tonnes of foodstuffs were destroyed by the municipality last month upon the request of their owners as their validity had expired. But he said that the department ordered three food stores temporarily closed for violating public health regulations.

Mr. Ibrahim also said that his department conducted medical examinations on workers employed in the food processing industry last month. Out of 1277 workers, 48 proved to be suffering from some illnesses and were ordered to be suspended from work until they have recovered, Mr. Ibrahim added. He said these workers are still undergoing treatment and would not return to work without medical approval.

He said department inspectors conducted visits to 312 food processing industries like those making ice cream and meat warehouses and issued fines to 37 of these industries for violating the regulations.

Chinese trade fair opens

AMMAN (Petra) — China Tuesday opened its second trade fair in Jordan, displaying products from more than 100 firms. Minister of Industry and Trade Abdul-

and Jordan has made big strides since 1981, when the volume of exchanged goods was worth \$49.49 million, last year it amounted to \$115.5 million.

Jordan imports Chinese cereals, oil foodstuffs, industrial products and textiles and exports to China phosphate and potash.

During the fair, Chinese businessmen will hold talks with Jordanian private and public sector representatives to discuss trade exchange and ways to increase the trade volume between China and Jordan.

Among those attending the opening ceremony were Chinese Ambassador to Jordan Zhang De Liang and leading Jordanian businessmen.

Ministry of Industry and Trade sources said trade between China

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Ali Ridha at Alfa Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Rakan Dabboub at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "A Dialogue in Expression" — works on paper by Naz Ikramullah, Nabila Hilmi and Dodi Tabaa at the National Gallery, Jabal Luweibdeh Park.

Bush confident of peace process

(Continued from page 1)

which followed the start of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid last October.

Mr. Rabin helped to revive the peace talks by promising that the new government would sharply cut spending on settlements for Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories — something that Mr. Shamir had steadfastly refused to do.

But critics last weekend accused Mr. Rabin of breaking his promise to make drastic cuts in spending on the settlements after news emerged that the 1993 budget included the \$1 billion allocation.

Despite the controversy sparked by the spending allocation, Mr. Hussein said that continuation of the peace process

was vital for the region.

"I believe that there will be no future and no way to enter the next century in a dignified way without building a free and open Middle East," he said.

On a separate front, Mr. Rabin said Monday Syria was still not offering full peace and normal relations in its peace negotiations with the Jewish state.

Mr. Rabin, addressing the B'nai B'rith convention in Washington through a satellite linkup, said there had only been a slight change in Syria's position in negotiations which adjourned last Thursday and reconvene Sept. 14.

"Even for total withdrawal from the Golan Heights, they are ready only for a peace agreement but not for normalised relationship — not a peace treaty, not open boundaries, not embassies,

not commercial and cultural relationship," he said.

It was also unclear whether Syria was linking progress in its talks with Israel to the separate negotiations the Israelis were conducting with Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians, Mr. Rabin said.

In the absence of a Syrian commitment to what he called "full peace," Mr. Rabin said Israel was ready to negotiate an interim agreement.

Mr. Rabin's somewhat sombre assessment contrasted with the enthusiasm of acting U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, who said Friday the Israeli-Syrian talks had made major progress.

"There's been major movement. The two sides still have some negotiating to do but it's a significant step forward," Mr. Eagleburger said.

GCC gets ready

(Continued from page 1)

GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara told reporters after two sessions of talks that the ministers would not be finishing as scheduled Tuesday and that "discussions on the Damascus declaration will be continued Wednesday."

The six ministers are scheduled to move from this Red Sea port city to Doha, Qatar, for a meeting late Wednesday with the foreign ministers of Egypt and Syria.

The six GCC countries, Egypt and Syria signed an agreement in the Syrian capital of Damascus in March 1991 that called for stationing Egyptian and Syrian troops in the Gulf states to help protect the alliance against aggression.

But the so-called "Damascus Declaration" was never im-

plemented, and GCC countries instead concentrated on fostering tighter military ties with the leading Western powers.

Egypt has since presented alternative formulas for enforcing the collective security plan. These include the creation of joint command and a joint rapid deployment force, which would be rushed to any GCC country facing aggression.

Both Egypt and Syria sent troops to fight in the Gulf war as part of the U.S.-led allied coalition which ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait. But the two countries have remained on the sidelines in the current allied operation enforcing the "no-fly" zone.

Iran, which dominates the eastern coast of the Gulf, objects to the participation of non-Gulf parties in security arrangements. Relations between Iran and the

GCC have warmed gradually since the Gulf war. But lately there has been tension over an attempt by Iran to take full control of the Abu Musa island, shared with the UAE emirate of Sharjah since 1971.

Seif Al Miskiri, the GCC's assistant secretary-general, told the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Anbas that Abu Musa was on the agenda of the GCC foreign ministers.

"The issue has not yet developed into a crisis between the GCC states and Iran, but contacts are under way with the Iranians who affirm their interest in bolstering cooperation with the GCC," he was quoted Monday as saying.

Conference sources said the GCC ministers had already agreed to close ranks with the UAE and support it against Iran over Abu Musa.

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Economic Forum

Overstocking and the construction boom

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

IS IT early for an economic analyst to start talking about the end of the present construction boom and the implications of such eventuality? Probably yes, but it is not too early.

An investment cycle extends for not less than one year. So, the construction boom which started almost a year ago has hardly worked itself out. A drive in Amman will establish beyond doubt the fact that the construction fever is still raging on. This suggests that the construction boom will be with us through at least 1993.

But when this boom comes to an end, no businessman or economist will recognise that. A certain period of time will elapse before the shift in the construction cycle is noticeable, during which the business community behaves as if there is an economic expansion. Here, wrong and bad decisions are taken by all or most of the players on the economic arena. A state of overstocking will grip the national economy and will be symptomatic of the onset of the downturn of activity. Such overstocking takes various forms.

Overstocking in the construction sector proper takes mainly the form of excess supply of housing units. Developers cannot spend work in buildings under erection even when it becomes clear that the demand for housing units is grinding to a halt. In

macro terms, excess supply of dwellings is a good thing in urban centres, especially in capital cities, because it siphons away potential housing crises and ameliorates inflationary pressures. The problematic aspects of house overstocking is confined to those developers who cannot afford to hold the excess units under the pressure of liquidity and finance requirements, in which case they create problems for themselves and for their bankers.

Another form of overstocking relates to contractors who go very long on machinery and equipment. Fleets of bulldozers, cranes, tractors etc. will stay idle on land and rust out.

Retailers and wholesalers of building materials tend to build stocks during a construction boom and get overstocked at its end. This is also true of property dealers who might accumulate building lands in excess of what is warranted, and thus get stuck with very expensive, sterilised and illiquid assets.

The combined negative impacts of all these forms of overstocking are reflected on banks in their capacity as the major and sometimes only lenders to the business community and thereby they actually underwrite overstocking in the economy. The result will be a growth in their troubled loans and ultimately a rise in bad debts. In other words, banks will have their own overstocks of loans.

It is earnestly advisable for the business community, particularly banks and construction enterprises, to ponder the impact of the present construction boom on their future plans. Probably, they will not succeed in escaping a certain degree of "overstocking", but they can minimise it. If they keep an eye on their liquidity, they may be fortunate enough not to be victimised by a possible end of the current construction boom.

In trying to perceive the path and nature of economic developments during the next two or three years, it is legitimate enough to list the prospects of peace as a positive factor. But not with relation to the construction boom under study. Our firm impression is that real progress in the occupied territories but demand for houses and property in the occupied territories will enfeeble it in the East Bank, at least in the short and medium terms. Prices of building land, rents and dwellings will ease out, and thus set the stage for a considerable slowdown in construction activity. Such a slowdown might not turn into a recession but will certainly sow confusion in the construction sector and the construction-related activities.

It is prudent to think of, and plan for, a possible end of the present construction boom. That may be in the interest of all parties.

Old habits die hard

THE DECISION of the Labour-led government in Israel to earmark \$1 billion for construction of Jewish settlements in occupied Arab territories during fiscal year 1992-93 is a severe blow to the Middle East peace process. Israel's draft budget for 1993 is clear on this point and for all intents and purposes does not differ from the 1992 budget applied by former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir when it comes to allocations for housing Israelis on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. With all the fanfare associated with Yitzhak Rabin's dramatic decision to scale down settlement activity in the occupied territories as soon as he assumed power, the new Israeli budget is a great disappointment for all those who have pinned hope on the new government and a major setback to the ongoing peace talks.

True that Rabin reneged on his pledge to end the settlement of Arab lands when he detailed his government's policy on the Jewish settlements in Arab territories by announcing that construction on some 11,000 units already begun by Shamir's government would go ahead on schedule. But the real punch came when the 1993 budget was unveiled Sunday and with it confirmation that no less than \$1 billion will be spent on these and other housing projects.

There is no escape from the conclusion that the official release of the new Israeli budget will pour cold water on the shoulder of the Arab parties which harboured illusions about the significance of the ten-day recess from the Washington peace talks. It was thought by all the Arab negotiating teams that Israel sought the break from the peace payoffs to reconsider its negotiating posture with a view to introducing new momentum to them in response to the Arabs' forthcoming negotiating positions. Now the Arab side cannot help but feel the impact of the new Israeli budget and will be forced to interpret the disclosed allocations for the Israeli housing projects as a clear signal that not much has changed in Israeli politics or policies.

It is incumbent on the Israeli negotiators to put in perspective this reinforced impression about Rabin's bottom line stance on Jewish settlements by delivering on his announcement, a few days ago, that "Israel has not disclosed all its cards in the current Middle East negotiations," and that his government has "not revealed the price it was prepared to pay in exchange for full peace." If Israel cannot expose or play out its negotiating cards all at once, the least one expects it to do is to deal some valuable cards at this stage in order to maintain the momentum of the anemic peace process. Declaring that the \$1 billion allocation for Jewish settlements will, after all, not go to more colonisation of the occupied territories could be just the kind of move that the Arab side is impatiently waiting for.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily commented on reports that the Arab World lost \$760 billion in the Gulf War noting that the losses came as a result of divisions among Arabs and the hatred of the Western countries for the Arabs and Muslims. Most of the losses are due to the heavy bombing and destruction of the Iraqi civilian installations and infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, factories and bridges, said the daily. The Arabs could have put an end to their border disputes and could have paved the way for a settlement in the Gulf, but they preferred to invite in the aggressors and sustain so much sufferings, destruction and human and material losses, the paper continued. Instead of becoming rich countries, the Arabs, including those with oil wealth, have become indebted to the West which spared no effort in pillaging and looting Arab wealth in the Gulf and the funds deposited in Western banks, the paper said. The huge losses for the Arabs in the Gulf war, as declared by a meeting by the governors of Arab central banks, include psychological, social as well as material losses, not only for the Iraqis who took the main brunt but also the poor and rich Arab states alike, the paper added. Since it is the warmongers in the West, who hate the Arabs, that have caused so much damage to the nation, the paper said, the new Arab generation should be taught to remember this crime committed by criminals in Paris, London, Washington and over Western capitals.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily focused attention on the rights of the expatriates returning from Kuwait. The teachers who spent their lifetime in the Gulf emirate are being denied their rights to retrieve their savings with the Social Security Fund of Kuwait, said Nazih. The writer said the teachers are demanding that they get back their premiums, which they are refused this request. The writer said that huge amounts of money had been paid to the teachers' Social Security Fund and the government should interfere and help these teachers regain their rights which run into millions of dinars. The writer expressed support and sympathy for the teachers who, he said, have been paying part of their salaries each month, awaiting the end of service in order to receive remuneration in addition to the amounts they had been paying. But, he noted, they are now shocked to see the Kuwaitis denying them the right even to their own funds paid over the years. The writer urged the Ministry of Labour and the Foreign Ministry to step up their contacts with the Kuwaiti authorities in order to regain the Jordanian citizens' rights.

A year later, the same oil-rich smugness

By Ken Craven

Soon after the Gulf war, U.S. newspapers raised concerns about democracy in Kuwait but mostly pictured Kuwaitis as having learned a great lesson: They would turn from their arrogant ways and learn to bake their own bread and sweep their own streets.

No more, Kuwaitis said, would they depend on foreigners to run their own country. What they meant was that they would no longer depend on the quarter-million Palestinians they began to harry from the country. After international condemnation slowed early "excesses," Kuwait's new "population balance" policy became a campaign to starve the Palestinians out, despite the numbers of them who

fought in the resistance or risked their lives to save trapped Westerners.

By September 1991, a quarter million domestics had been imported to serve 600,000 Kuwaitis, and more than 1.5 million foreigners were working in the country. While security police hounded Palestinians out (sample deportable offense: running a red light), the airport filled with Sri Lankans, Filipinos and Bangladeshis tagged like cattle. A member of the Kuwaiti ruling family, put it this way: "This is our country; we can do what we want."

That haughtiness characterises Kuwait's postwar attitude. Little gratitude is expressed towards America, because "we paid for

it," meaning Kuwait paid its operational costs. As for Desert Storm, many Kuwaitis rationalise, with good cause, that the West acted only in its own interest ("If we grew carrots, do you think you would save us?") and speculate that George Bush lured Saddam Hussein into a trap. Theories abound. The Americans have come to take over. The Americans set the oil fires to make money putting them out.

On the day the government announced its army would receive U.S. Patriot missiles, it prohibited an American-sponsored election seminar because it would "constitute interference in the internal affairs of Kuwait." In June, the speaker of the national

council accused the U.S. ambassador of interference and proclaimed that "our Arab brothers" saved Kuwait.

I found little commitment to rebuilding the nation. I did find under the oil-rich smugness a frenetic self-doubt. Kuwaitis purchase 4-wheel-drive vehicles (for quick escapes) by the thousands and ship their dinars outside the country by the billions.

From March 1992 on, a wave of terrorist shootings and bombing — mostly unreported and directed largely towards foreign influence — rocked the country. In reaction, the government harassed long-term expatriates. Freedom of the press, ballooned in February, evaporated.

According to a senior NBC correspondent, journalists are allowed less freedom in Kuwait than in Baghdad.

Arriving six months after liberation, I looked forward to assisting in the reconstruction of Kuwait University. Soon, with other newcomers from countries that had supported Desert Storm, I experienced hostility and bureaucratic humiliation.

Outside the university, the two-thirds of Kuwaitis who returned from a year in Saudi Arabia, England, Nice or Monte Carlo ("My biggest problem during the war," one student wrote, "was filling my Mercedes in London. So expensive!") took up their old lifestyle with new callousness.

They scrambled to produce oil at pre-war levels without regard for warnings of environmental

ists. They filled their army with stateless mercenaries. None spoke for the Palestinians or for human rights for imported labour. Fear of the national security police kept opposition down. On the campus, progressive student groups wasted away as more and more Kuwaitis bowed to Islamic fundamentalism and its hatred of the West.

Government compensation for war damage extended only to Kuwaiti citizens. When I returned to America after an academic year in Kuwait, I was struck by the extreme discrepancies between what I had experienced and the images of Kuwait most people here seem to have. I suspect that the American people, bewitched by a few pictures of Kuwaitis clutching American flags, would not like the whole picture — The Washington Post.



M. KAHIL

Death comes daily in Somalia despite airlift

By Andrew Hill
Reporter

BAIDOA, Somalia — Mohammad Osman rasped his last breath at 10 minutes past eight on Sunday morning in a feeding camp set up to stop him and thousands of famished Somalis dying.

He died under a tree, 50 metres from a soup kitchen and 700 metres from the airstrip where the latest consignment of Western food aid was being unloaded.

As biscuits were handed out around him to matchstick waifs, his terrified eyes dalled over, his diseased lungs stopped wheezing and the convulsions beneath his tattered rags abruptly ceased.

Five weeks after the United States and its allies decided to address the worst humanitarian crisis on their troubled agenda, thousands of Somalis are still dying, and will continue to do so daily, relief workers said.

"We are in the middle of the tunnel. We can't even see the light," said Pascal Edou of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the standard

bearer for relief in Somalia, where two million may starve to death.

The ICRC's raw data of disaster is collected daily. Every morning survivors bring out their dead wrapped in paper bundles, rags or old food sacks and a lorry takes them away for mass burial.

Mohammad Osman died as the lorry took away bundle 27. He had lived for 29 years as a peasant farmer in the Baidoa region, 250 kilometres northwest of Mogadishu.

As he died, the lorry still had to visit many more feeding centres and shelters for the 50,000 starving people camped around Baidoa. All along the road wheelbarrows waited with their stiffening bundles.

"Two hundred bodies are collected daily," said Christophe Sereau of the ICRC. That's a few less than in the past two months, but not much.

"The death rate is slowly going down because the worst cases of

malnutrition have already died. "You don't see one or two year-old kids around here anymore. They're all dead."

Similar data for lives saved is not readily available. But suffering is on an unimaginable scale. "It's worse than anything I ever saw in Ethiopia in 1985," said an aid worker with the Irish charity goal.

Dotted around Somalia's fourth biggest town tens of thousands of peasants wait for food to build up the strength to go back to wrecked villages where they have no seed and no tools to prepare the ground before the short rainy season starts in a week or so.

While relief agencies fly in food and make plans for the immediate future, many are still bitter that the world failed to act until U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali urged the West to treat Somalia with the same urgency it did Yugoslavia.

The ICRC said it warned of

catastrophe in December. "Five to six months ago we could have saved these people, stopped all this," said Edou.

They are also sceptical about the usefulness of a U.S. airlift which George Bush announced last month but which has yet to deliver grain to Baidoa, the worst-hit centre.

Relief agencies say the war that toppled dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in January 1991 and the clan warfare that followed until a fragile ceasefire in March this year has wrecked all infrastructure and put back relief work even more.

"There's no infrastructure, no police, water, electricity, nothing. It's total anarchy," said Rupert Lewis of the U.N. Children's agency UNICEF.

"It's easy to blame the United States and its overdue airlift. But what's the use? Your train may be late, but you still get on it if it will take you to the office. What is the alternative?"

LETTERS

Prevention better than cure

To the Editor:

It was with great interest and concern that I read your editorial entitled "Have Mercy on Young" (Jordan Times, September 3). Having spent a total of seven weeks in Jordan over the past ten months (encountering both snowdrifts and heatwaves in the process) I have found it impossible to ignore the many traffic and road safety problems that are evident in Amman and elsewhere. I doubt if any of these problems are unique to Jordan and therefore I wonder if, in response to your article, I might describe a comprehensive new approach presently being adopted across Britain to tackle the road safety menace.

It has been my most recent professional duty to be the author of the "Road Safety Plan" for one of London's municipalities. In drawing up this plan, we have sought to meet the challenge of reducing the number and severity of road accidents by making recommendations in each of seven "key areas." Each area is vital and success cannot be expected if a commitment to each is not maintained. The key areas are:

Information: It is essential to have accurate information about what and where the problems are. The Traffic Department's statistical bulletins seem like the basis of a good system.

Planning: It is not enough simply to react to "last week's" problems; it is vital to analyse trends, look ahead and thereby control the menace. This should include appropriate new legislation.

Engineering: The physical measures introduced; signal controls, pedestrian crossings, speed reduction techniques, signs, road markings, etc.

Enforcement: By the police; to ensure that traffic laws are obeyed and engineering measures are properly observed.

Education: It is of overriding importance that, from a young age, children receive formal education about the dangers they face on the roads. This will, in turn, help them become responsible drivers and safety-conscious parents.

Encouragement: Perhaps the most daunting task in Jordan, this is the changing of adult attitudes. It includes promotion and advertising (posters/TV) to encourage safer driving and make parents more aware for their children's sake.

Coordination: The efforts of all relevant authorities (the "whoever they may be" of your article) — engineers, planners, financing and legislative bodies, the police, schools, health services — must be closely linked to ensure efficiency and thereby success.

In Jordan, and throughout the world, the issue of efficiency is paramount. Funds are limited and must not be wasted. Although, if adopted, this seven-point approach will involve the allocation of greater sums for road safety, it will also, more importantly, increase efficiency by getting all key players to work as one towards one goal.

And here lies the real challenge. Is there the will on the part of all concerned (not just "the government") to take this course of action? For the sake of the young — and also the adult population you suggest has already been "written off" — I sincerely hope so.

John Dales,
Traffic Engineer,
P.O. Box 634,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

King returns home next week

(Continued from page 1)

ried by Prince Bandar to King Hussein signalled a political will in Riyadh to improve relations with Jordan and put the past behind us," according to the source.

The message to the King "contained the greetings and wishes to speedy recovery" not only of King Fahd but also Crown Prince Abdullah and Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan as well as the entire Saudi royal family, said the source.

Prince Bandar, a highly influential member of the Saudi royal family and a harsh critic of Jordan during the Gulf crisis, met with King Hussein for half an hour with aides present and then went into a closed session with the King which lasted over one hour and 15 minutes, according to the source.

"It was clear after the meeting that both King Hussein and Prince Bandar were very pleased with their discussions and confident that Saudi-Jordanian relations could be put back on track," said the source.

The Saudi monarch also called King Hussein on the phone earlier this week prior to his departure from Washington for London, said another source.

According to the source, the King is considering performing the Umra, the small pilgrimage to holy places in Saudi Arabia,

as a form of expressing thanks to God for his successful surgery and recovery.

"It is highly possible that the King would perform Umra in a few days after his return home," said the source. "The trip will definitely include a meeting with King Fahd."

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak also used the occasion of the King's stay in hospital to what officials here see as a bid to mend fences and heal the rift in political relations caused by the Gulf crisis.

In addition to sending his ambassador to the U.S. to visit the King at the Mayo Clinic, the Egyptian leader also contacted the Monarch twice and not once as was earlier reported at the hospital to inquire after his health and wish him a speedy recovery.

"One of the telephone calls was rather lengthy," indicating that it was not "simply a courtesy call," said one source.

Almost all Arab world leaders and heads of state sent messages of good wishes to King Hussein after the surgery, wishing him a speedy recovery. According to the King's personal physician, Dr. Samir Faraj, and Mayo Clinic doctors and spokesmen as well as American experts, the surgery represented a permanent cure and the King does not have to undergo any chemotherapy or post-surgery treatment except periodic, routine check-ups which could be done in Amman.

Shbeilat questioning called off

(Continued from page 1)

age an illegal society and collecting donations and financing it, as well as possession of explosives and arms," according to Mr. Dmour, who is part of a team of four lawyers whom the Sufi deputy appointed earlier this week to defend him. The "society" deputy appointed earlier this week to defend him. The "society" was not named, the lawyer said.

Mr. Dmour said that the deputy denied all the charges made against him, and that he, like Deputy Shbeilat, had refused to speak to the prosecutor-general of the State Security Court until his trial began.

Just like in the case of Mr. Shbeilat, no date was set for another interrogation session, and Mr. Qarrash's lawyer advised him not to make a statement at least until the State Security Court permitted his defence to look at the details of his case and the basis of the charges against him.

"We demanded to look at Mr. Qarrash's files and the allegations made against him, but the State Security Court prosecutors refused our request until after the deputy answered questions," Mr.

Dmour said in a telephone interview.

He added that the defence could not do its work properly if the team of lawyers representing Mr. Qarrash did not have access to the files of the investigations.

The State Security Court prosecutors have not revealed any of the findings related to the group Mr. Qarrash is allegedly involved in. But security sources have said that the deputy was the leader of the previously unknown Al Nafeer.

Mr. Dmour said that after a trial hearing date is set, the prosecution is obliged to give the details of the accusations against his client and of the investigations in order to prepare for his defence before the trial started.

Mr. Qarrash, who was detained almost two weeks ago, officially appointed the team of lawyers early this week, and they were permitted to see him, though not privately, on Monday, according to Mr. Dmour.

Mr. Qarrash's wife for six years, Abeer, echoed her husband's criticism of the media and the "sources" whom she said had "incriminated my husband" before his trial began.

Right-wing surge shows cracks in Hungary's leading party

By Michael Shields
Reuter

BUDAPEST — The far-right wing has suddenly seized centre-stage in Hungary, threatening to undermine the country's reputation as a haven of moderation in a turbulent region.

A scathing essay by Istvan Csurka, a guru of the extreme right and vice-chairman of the ruling Hungarian Democratic Forum (HDF), has highlighted a battle for ideological control of the party.

It hit the country like a bomb when it appeared late last month. Critics say it oozes anti-Semitism, racism, raw hatred of communists, and disregard for the rule of law.

Damning the government for hesitance, Mr. Csurka said the party betrayed true Hungarians in 1990 by striking a pact with the liberal opposition designed to speed up law-making as Hungary cast off communism.

The pact called for the opposition Alliance of Free Democrats (AFD) to forego its right to insist on two-thirds majority voting on many laws. In return, the AFD won the presidency for its man, Arpad Goncz.

In effect, Mr. Csurka wrote, the deal allowed Jews, communists and liberals to keep their grip on power and frustrate a real change of system that would make Hungarians masters of their own fate.

"The government could not out them completely, so they still have their Western links and use them," he told Reuters in an interview. "This is not a myth of a Jewish conspiracy. This is a Hungarian phenomenon which we have to face."

Mr. Csurka's article shamed many Hungarians inside and outside the party, not for criticising the HDF record but for passionately embracing radical right-wing ideas.

Government negotiators were embarrassed by his railings against the International Monetary Fund, for instance, which he said was supporting the country's financial elite just as an occupying Soviet army once backed Hungary's communist bosses.

Mr. Csurka also blasted Mr. Goncz for refusing to grant Prime Minister Jozsef Antall's request to sack the chiefs of National Radio and Television, which Mr. Goncz said would threaten freedom of speech.

"Goncz said 'no' because those who are standing behind his back — the communists, the reform communists, the liberal and radical nomenclaturists, the Paris-New York-Tel Aviv go-betweens — command him to," Mr. Csurka thundered.

The venomous essay — and reaction to it — have exposed cracks between the party's popul-

ist, conservative and liberal factions that Mr. Antall had been able to paper over until now. HDF colleague and top Jozsef Debrezsezi sent Mr. Csurka a bitter letter that soon made its way into the press, saying parts of his essay "correspond perfectly with a full Nazi ideology."

He added: "I, and the HDF have nothing to do with this." HDF leaders met quickly but, anxious to avoid a major split within the government is already deeply unpopular, issued a bland statement reaffirming the right of politicians to express personal opinions.

Amid mounting public uproar, HDF chief Antall at last took the floor in parliament and distanced himself from Mr. Csurka, saying parts of his writings were "politically damaging and wrong."

Mr. Csurka, a playwright who emerged from the scrap congratulating himself for redirecting the political discourse in Hungary.

His only apology has been for suggesting Mr. Antall, who suffers from a curable form of can-

cer, should step aside to prevent his political opponents using his illness as a weapon in the next general election, due in 1994.

Mr. Antall led the party to a sweeping victory in free elections in 1990 that ended four decades of communist rule.

He formed a three-party, centre-right coalition which has preserved relative calm despite severe economic recession and widespread discontent.

Foreign investors whose cash has helped make Hungary's economy the most advanced in the area often cite political stability as an important reason to do business here.

But Tom Lantos, a United States congressman born in Hungary, told reporters during a visit here Mr. Csurka's headline nationalism could one day hurt Budapest's foreign ties.

"I don't think that extreme-right views can gain ground in Hungary," he said. "However, if Csurka's ideas come to prevail among Hungary's leading politicians, its relationship with the United States may see dramatic changes with adverse effects on several fields of life from tourism to investment."

In the interview, Mr. Csurka defended his essay and denied he was anti-Semitic. He said he wanted to restore the HDF and save it from defeat in the 1994 election.

"I do see a possibility that this government can become more resolute, more efficient, that it would call on people whom it has neglected so far in order to win the next elections. If things stay as they are now, we will not," he said. "This was the most important thing, to shake things up."



U.S. poverty, jobless reports confirm what many already know

By Jacqueline Frank
Reuter

WASHINGTON — A series of dismal reports issued by the U.S. government has confirmed what many hard-pressed citizens already know — it is getting tougher just to get by.

In the past week the government said there were more people living in poverty than in nearly 30 years, almost 14 per cent of the population.

Of the 35.7 million people with incomes below the official poverty line, 40 per cent are children and one in four is under six years old. One million of the children belong to families whose incomes fell below the poverty line in the past year. "America's wealth has nearly

doubled since 1965 and yet as many children are poor today as were poor then," said Children's Defense Fund President Martin Wright Edelman.

But the poor are working. The department's Bureau of Labour statistics found that 40 per cent of poor adults have jobs and nine per cent are working full time.

According to Robert Greenstein of the Centre for Budget and Policy Analysis, full-time work at the minimum wage of \$4.25 an hour would leave a family of four \$1,000 below the poverty line.

The official poverty level ranges from \$6,932 a year for a person living alone to \$27,942 for a family of nine. A family of four with an annual income under

\$13,924 is considered by the government to live in poverty.

There are 9.7 million people looking for work, slightly fewer than the June peak of 9.98 million, the Labour Department reported this month.

But economic analysts were very disturbed by the department's August report which showed there were 83,000 fewer jobs in the U.S. economy despite a government plan to give summer work to 100,000 teenagers.

The decline in jobs reflected a large number of people who stopped looking for work.

For those who are better off, an incomes report in August showed they have to work harder just to stay in place. It said families with middle-range earn-

ings lost \$1,100 in income, last year.

The White House said the poor economy in general could be expected to push incomes down all around and the president's spokesman, Martin Fitzwater, added that the government has increased payments to families with children and has helped provide more food to the poor.

Americans have saved less of their income than counterparts in Japan and Europe. They are also being forced to dip deeper into nest eggs and to take out credit cards to keep up their living standards.

Another government economic report in August said the growth in spending in June and July had overtaken the growth in incomes.

China looks to nuclear power

By Charlene L. Fu
The Associated Press

HANGZHOU, CHINA — After the news each evening, television announces which parts of Hangzhou won't have electricity the next day.

The rotating blackouts are Hangzhou's way of dealing with a growing nationwide energy shortage.

The shortages have prompted China to turn to nuclear power even as Western nations shut down reactors because of safety concerns.

It is one of only three nations with more reactors under construction than in operation, according to the Worldwatch Institute in Washington. The others, Cuba and Romania, have yet to put a reactor on line.

China's first nuclear power plant, a 300-megawatt reactor at Qinshan, 90 kilometres north of Hangzhou, began trial operation in December and is expected to start commercial generation next summer.

Work on two more reactors at Qinshan is to begin next year, eventually bringing total capacity at the facility to 1,500 megawatts.

A plant with two 900-megawatt reactors is under construction and a third has been approved. Nine reactors could be operating in China by the year 2000, generating 3 per cent of the country's power.

There has been no public discussion of safety issues, and foreign observers fear the government might conceal problems.

"It's always a problem if you don't have a relatively free flow of information and public access to safety hearings," said Christopher Flavin, the Worldwatch Institute's vice president for research and an energy specialist. China says its programme is safe and that few alternatives are available.

"Nuclear power must be vigorously developed in China," Energy Minister Huang Yicheng declared last year.

While the economy grew an average of 11 per cent annually in 1985-1989, outstripping the 8.5 per cent growth of electricity production, China's main energy source is coal, but its main deposits are in the north and its railroads can't carry enough to feed the rapidly developing southeast.

Hydroelectric plants produce nearly 30 per cent of China's electricity, but the major water resources are in the underdeveloped southwest.

The nuclear programme has hit some major snags.

At Daya Bay, where two 900-megawatt reactors are under construction just 48 kilometres from Hong Kong, work was halted for nearly two months in 1987. Officials said 316 steel reinforcing bars had been left out when the first layer of concrete was poured for the foundation.

Hong Kong is to receive about 70 per cent of Daya Bay's electricity, but residents of the British colony have protested its construction and expressed concern about earthquake risks. The Daya Bay area is crisscrossed by fault lines, one of them only 6.4 kilometres from the plant.

Qinshan has taken nearly seven years to build, two years longer than planned. The government says planners underestimated the construction time.

Outside the main gate, a slogan says, "Build a nuclear power plant. Bring prosperity to the people." Down the road is another sign: "The glory of the nation."

When foreign reporters visited, plant officials said the reactor was shut down for tests and they were not permitted inside. In the West, such a time is usually considered the safest for visitors.

Officials cited safety as their primary concern. They said, for example, that the containment dome had been built several times larger than required for a 300-megawatt reactor.

They also expressed pride in positive reports by the International Atomic Energy Agency after two inspections during construction.

"The IAEA believes we have no safety problems and there is no need for us to be inspected again after going on line," said Wu Zhaoyuan, a plant official.

Qinshan, sits between Hangzhou Bay and Qishan Mountain. The nearest residents are on the other side of the mountain, about 0.8 kilometres away.

Plant officials said plans for handling a crisis involve regional civil and military officials. They gave no details.

Five automated environmental inspection stations constantly monitor air and water in the area and tests of air, water, soil, plant and animal life are made each month, they said.

The plant was designed by China, but important components were imported from Japan, Germany and France. Chinese-made copies are to be used in future domestic installations and in a plant China has agreed to build in Pakistan.

Nuclear waste will be stored for up to 15 years at Qinshan, or until a national nuclear waste dump is established, the officials said.

Iraqi group

(Continued from page 1)

haven" in northern Iraq for the Kurds, who have declared themselves autonomous.

President Saddam Hussein was quoted Tuesday as saying he was ready to make sacrifices for Iraq and the West should realise he would inflict losses on anyone trying to tamper with its unity.

President Saddam told cheering tribal leaders in Diyala, 55 kilometres east of Baghdad, the United States and its Gulf war allies needed to know it was impossible for them to "achieve what swirls in their heads," newspaper said.

"They can never achieve what they have in their minds, God willing," President Saddam said.

He accused U.S. President George Bush of plotting to divide Iraq to satisfy Israel "which controls half of his electoral card to help him win a second term."

President Saddam visited Diyala amid a "popular mobilisation" under which Baghdad has been arming tribal leaders.

Iraq's leaders say their aim is to stop Iranian infiltrators helping the Shiites in the southern marshlands.

He said the Iraqis knew in "their hearts and minds that it was impossible for the West to dismember Iraq."

"We are aware of this fact, but we need the enemies to be also aware of it so that the evil will avoid us without our having to confront them and then be compelled to offer sacrifices and losses," he said.

"What we want is that the enemies should know this fact before we offer the sacrifices required by the clash and before we inflict losses upon them," President Saddam said.

Iraqi leaders have said they will confront the "no-fly" zone but only they will choose the time and means for doing so.

Iraq's airforce and anti-aircraft ground defences have not challenged the Western planes policing southern Iraq.

Television shows daily scenes of marsh Arab tribesmen brandishing guns and waving placards with anti-U.S. slogans.

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Syria leads with 6 gold medals at Pan-Arab Games

DAMASCUS (R) Syrians powered their way to six of 10 gold medals for wrestling at the 7th Pan-Arab Games and took their country to first place overall, according to results as of Tuesday.

Syrian wrestlers also snatched two silvers and two bronzes giving the host nation a place in each of the crowning ceremonies for wrestling at Damascus's stadium packed with 10,000 people.

Syria collected another gold when Ghada Shua'a who gained Syria's first gold of the games in javelin, broke an Arab record in long jumping.

Shua'a registered 6.22 metres against the Arab record of 6.16 set in 1985 by Algeria's Yassim-nah Azizi.

Syria won gold in the 25-km team cycling event and Osama Shurbaji also got a gold in solo gymnastics, for a total of 13.

Monday's competition, which continued until late evening, including the men's 1,500 metres won in 3:40.10 minutes by Qatar's Mohammad Suliman who took bronze at Barcelona.

Mahmoud Kalbous of Tunisia came in second at 3:51.20 and Mohammed Taqi of Morocco was third with 3:42.60.

Morocco's Nazha Badwan clocked 14.7 seconds for gold in the women's 100-metre hurdles followed by Ruwayda Isma'el of Egypt at 15.2 seconds and Amal

Barakat of Syria third at 15.7 seconds.

In the long jump, Tunisia's Hind Kabbawi came in second to Shua'a with 5.91 metres for silver and Fadia Abdou of Algeria jumped 5.75 metres for bronze.

Syria won the women's 25-km cycling in 36:59.40 minutes. The Palestinian team took second place with 39:13.30 and Lebanon came in third in 42:36.91 minutes.

Individual gymnastics was won by Syria's Shurbaji who got 54.30 points out of 60. Another Syrian, Ala'udeen Namou, got the silver with 54.15 points. Abdul-Hakim Osmani of Algeria took bronze with 53.75 points.

Algerian Olympic gold medalist Hassiba Boulmerka Monday won the 1,500 metres race at the Pan-Arab Games in the Syrian port city of Latakia.

Boulmerka clocked a time of four minutes 17.8 seconds, several seconds slower than her Barcelona time of 3:55.3.

Najat Bou-Ali of Morocco came second with a time of 4:32.0 while Ala' Al Matari of Jordan took the bronze with 4:49.7.

Boulmerka told Syrian Television after the race she had wanted to compete in Syria to show her commitment to the Pan-Arab Games although there was no real competition and said she planned to break the 1,500 metre record.

"I promise all Arabs and all those who supported me that I will break the world record soon," she said.

She said she would leave for Paris Tuesday to be with her father who is in hospital there, and would not be able to race in the 800 metres Wednesday.

Boulmerka leads her country's 171-member team at the games which opened in Damascus Friday.

Meanwhile, a 172-member Iraqi sports team has returned home after spending four nights at the Jordanian-Syrian border trying to get to the Pan-Arab Games, an Iraqi embassy official in Amman said Monday.

"They drove back to Baghdad yesterday afternoon after spending four nights at the Jordanian-Syrian border waiting to see if Damascus would authorize their entry," he told Reuters.

"But Syria never responded," Syrian authorities barred the athletes from entering Thursday, saying Iraq had not told them it was sending a team to the games.

The Arab League, the main umbrella organization for the event which opened in Damascus Friday, tried to mediate between Iraq and Syria, which have been at loggerheads since the 1970s because of major ideological differences.

MEDALS TABLE

DAMASCUS (R) — Medals table after Monday's events in the Pan-Arab Games:

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Syria	13	9	6
Algeria	8	4	5
Morocco	7	5	4
Egypt	6	5	8
Qatar	4	X	2
Saudi Arabia	2	3	1
Jordan	1	1	2
Tunisia	X	11	8
UAE	X	1	X
Palestine	X	1	X
Yemen	X	1	X
Lebanon	X	X	9
Kuwait	X	X	2
Bahrain	X	X	1

Courier overpowers McEnroe, next faces Agassi in U.S. Open

NEW YORK (R) — Youth and power triumphed over artistry and experience as world number one Jim Courier turned his fourth-round showdown with John McEnroe into an anticlimactic rout at the U.S. Open.

The top-seeded Courier, Open runner-up last year, simply overpowered the four-time champion with an emphatic 6-2 6-2 7-6 victory that set up another superstar clash — a quarterfinals duel with Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi.

Agassi, the eighth seed, advanced with a 6-4 6-3 6-2 victory over Spaniard Carlos Costa in the featured night match.

Courier's 30-minute win dashed the 33-year-old McEnroe's dream of going out with one last Grand Slam title.

"I lifted my game in the third set but the better guy won and that's all there is to it," said the disappointed number one, who has said this would be his last full year on the tennis circuit.

"The top guys are really a step ahead," conceded McEnroe, the 16th seed.

Agassi, who has lost just 30 games in four victories, was broken in the opening game of the match, which started about 90 minutes late because of rain. But once he got rolling, Costa was overmatched.

Courier and Agassi have scooped up the year's first three Grand Slam titles. Courier won the Australian and French Opens, while Agassi claimed his first major crown at Wimbledon.

"If Andre plays as well as he's capable of, it should be an unbelievable match," McEnroe predicted.

The other quarterfinal in the top half of the draw will have third seed Pete Sampras going against Russian Alexander Volkov.

Sampras, the 1990 champion, went five sets for the second successive match to advance with a 6-3 1-6 6-4 6-3 victory over Frenchman Guy Forget.

Volkov ended American Brad Gilbert's run by posting a 6-2 6-4 5-7 7-6 victory, winning the final set tie-break 7-5.

On the women's side, second seed Steffi Graf and fifth seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario advanced to a quarterfinal showdown with easy victories.

Wimbledon champion Graf trounced Argentine Florencia Labat 6-2 6-2 in 48 minutes, while Sanchez embarrassed 14th-seeded American Zina Garrison 6-0 6-1 in just 44 minutes.

Ninth seed Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere and younger sister Magdalena Maleeva both beat American opponents to set up a sibling showdown in the quarters.

Maleeva-Fragniere beat Carrie Cunningham, 6-3 7-5, while 17-year-old Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria eliminated 16-year-old Chanda Rubin 7-5 5-7 6-1 to avenge Rubin's third-round defeat of middle sister Katerina.

With Sanchez zipping around the stadium court and Graf cracking groundstroke winners in the grandstand, the two seemed to be

racine each other to see who would finish first rather than worrying about their woefully over-matched opposition.

Sanchez, the 1989 French Open champion, figured to have the tougher match, but instead won the race by four minutes.

Graf, whose form and confidence returned with her Wimbledon victory over Monica Seles, has not dropped a set on the way to her eighth consecutive U.S. Open quarterfinal.

Garrison, twice a U.S. Open semifinalist, had no answers for the speedy Spaniard, who reeled off 10 successive games before the 14th seed got on the scoreboard.

Nearly every time Garrison tried to take control of the net, she watched helplessly as Sanchez whipped crisp passing shots by the serve and volleyer.

And when Garrison attempted to rally from the baseline, the fifth seed was content to stay back and hit until the American would commit an error.

"I think my game now is very complete. This is why I win matches like this," said Sanchez, a semifinalist here two years ago who lost just four points off her serve Monday.

"All the time I hit my passing shots very good. She didn't have any chance," said Sanchez, who as usual is brimming with confidence.

"She had to keep coming to the net because at the baseline I'm much more steady than her."

Hungarian fails paralympic drug test

BARCELONA (AP) — Hungarian shot-putter Denes Nagy tested positive for an anabolic steroid Monday, becoming the first Paralympics competitor to fail a dope test, games officials said Tuesday.

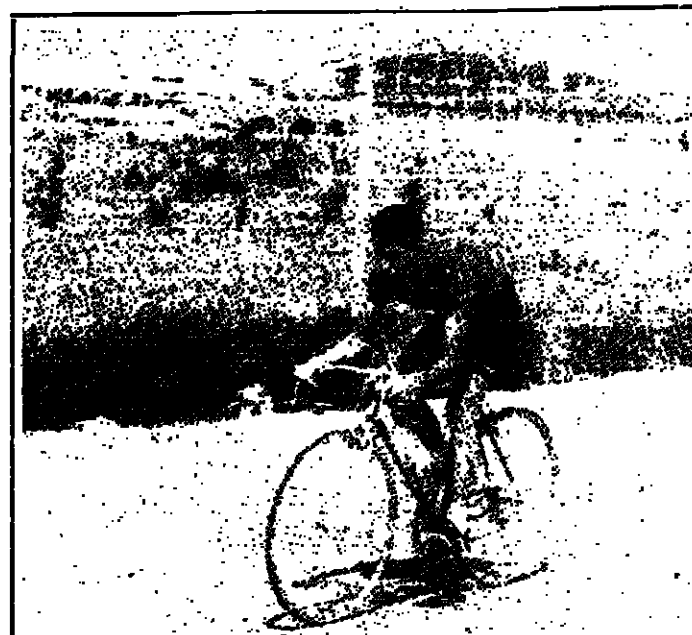
Nagy, who won the silver medal in the level-1 blindness category, will be expelled from the Athletes' Village Wednesday and told to take the first plane home.

He tested positive on Sept. 4 for Methandiolone, an anabolic steroid, and admitted taking the drug after a second positive test Monday. He will be suspended from competition for four years and told to hand back the medal.

But international sports officials see a bright side to Nagy's positive test, saying it simply underscores the high competitive level of the 1992 Paralympic Games.

"I think whenever you have competition, you'll have cheaters," said Dr. Michael Riding of Canada, chairman of the Medical Commission of the International Coordinating Committee of World Sports Organizations for the Disabled (ICC).

"I have no reason to think that disabled athletes are any less inclined to cheat than able-bodied athletes," he added. "The temptations are exactly the same."



Jordan cyclist to compete in Canada

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian cyclist Ahmad Shami has completed his preparations to take part in the mountain bike international championship to be held in Canada from Sept. 14 to 20. The championship will end in Montreal. The International Cycling Federation has circulated an invitation issued by the Canadian Cycling Federation inviting participants to take part in the month's championship. Mr. Shami, who is a law student in Jordan, will participate in the youth group competition to be held on a rough terrain — it will be the first experience for a Jordanian competitor. Mr. Shami had won third place in a competition organized by the Jordanian Cycling Federation and has a good chance of achieving good results in the Canadian championship.

Dash Thru Traffic wins all American futurity

RUIDOSO DOWNS, New Mexico (AP) — Jack Brooks recalls the day in 1959 when he arrived at Ruidoso Downs in a beat up truck pulling a two-horse trailer.

The All American Futurity, the race that would become the richest in quarter horse circles, was run for the first time that year, and Brooks turned his imagination loose.

"I can remember watching the horses through the fence behind the winner's circle and thinking, 'oh, wouldn't it be something to have a horse here,'" Brooks said.

"I thought if I could win the All American just one time, I would be satisfied."

Brooks obviously can't get enough of a very good thing.

On Monday, the 36-year-old trainer from Oklahoma won his sixth All-American winner as the colt Dash Thru Traffic raced to a 2 1/4-length win in the \$1.9 million 440-yard race.

His other winners were Moon Lark in 1978, Mr. Master Bug in 1982, Mr. Trucka Jet in 1985, Merganser in 1988 and Strawberry Silk in 1989.

The win was the fifth in seven starts this season for Dash Thru Traffic, who earned \$1 million for owner Debra Thewarner of Lubbock, Texas. The winner covered the 440 yards in 21.44 seconds against a mild heading and returned \$10.80 and \$3.60.

Dash Thru Traffic led every step of the way and the win also was the sixth in the Futurity for jockey Jack Martin, who has ridden all of Brooks' winners.

Dash Thru Traffic broke alertly from the middle of the 10-horse

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A strange day in which the pursuit of new knowledge and understanding advanced ways to do things is the most activating factor and requires some deep thought of ideas, standpoints and philosophies.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) The tasks facing you can be quickly reduced today so get at them with vim and vigor and later you will be able to sidestep an outside situation that annoys you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can please close companions by doing what they wish during the daytime but in the evening use care in whatever work you do that there is no spillage.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Use this midweek day to do something that will make your home more attractive or operative and in the evening sidestep some temptation by an outsider.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Consider well before you send out any communications or messages and make sure you indicate exactly how you feel in important matters.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Try to find out during the day what is holding up some business matter and do what you can to get it flowing smoothly, tonight avoid a scheming person.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Look for ways to get what you

want of a personal nature with more well planned time after which you can study ways to get out from under an obligation.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Because you do not get that intimate aim that means so much to you early should not discourage you but keep steadfast about it while tonight.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Because a friend is straightforward in some constructive criticism don't think you are being put upon, tonight do nothing to upset the composure of your mate.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You would be wise to attend to credit or civic matters in the daytime, then tonight study and clarify your own special goals, ways to get them.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) There are many points you need to uncover about a new venture and even after so doing it is not yet the right time to present to one in power.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be most conspicuous in attending to whatever promises you have made and then you will be able to get off and find the good points of a new project.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is your day to do whatever necessitates outside activity so get it behind you then you can carry through with other agreements you have made.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Pizza seems less fattening if you cut the pepperoni slices in the shape of Richard Simmons."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Y A P O S

T A U L D

G O C H U R

P Y T S H U

ANSWER: THE _____ WAS A _____

Saturday's Jumbles: ABIDE IMPEL SPLEEN HUNTER

Answer: Why they called their pet pig "Ball Point" — IT WAS HIS "PEN" NAME

THE DAILY CROSSWORD by Al Becker

ACROSS

1 Bitter

6 Dog Idn

10 Indine

14 Penny pincher

15 Cupid

16 Winglike

17 Occasional

18 Chevalier film

19 Meditate deeply

20 Set sail ball

22 Takes up slack

25 Perry of song

26 Opt

27 Play the field

31 Paving stuff

32 Encourages

33 Command

35 — and tucker

38 Fall

39 Wedding

40 — d'Orsay

41 Perot

42 Jet

43 Increase

44 Certainly

45 Certain

46 Put into motion

47 Tail

48 Bird of prey

49 Blot medicine

50 Less messy

51 Fourty estate

52 — Shave?

53 Frozen dew

54 Ecologist's

55 concern

56 Promenade

57 Road step in an

58 — Maria

59 Remarque

60 —

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Welcome

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: THE _____ WAS A _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: ABIDE IMPEL SPLEEN HUNTER

Answer: Why they called their pet pig "Ball Point" — IT WAS HIS "PEN" NAME

THE DAILY CROSSWORD by Al Becker

ACROSS

1 Bitter

6 Dog Idn

10 Indine

14 Penny pincher

15 Cupid

16 Winglike

17 Occasional

18 Chevalier film

19 Meditate deeply

20 Set sail ball

22 Takes up slack

25 Perry of song

26 Opt

27 Play the field

31 Paving stuff

32 Encourages

33 Command

35 — and tucker

38 Fall

39 Wedding

40 — d'Orsay

41 Perot

42 Jet

43 Increase

44 Certainly

45 Certain

46 Put into motion

47 Tail

48 Bird of prey

49 Blot medicine

50 Less messy

51 Fourty estate

52 — Shave?

53 Frozen dew

54 Ecologist's

55 concern

56 Promenade

57 Road step in an

58 — Maria

59 Remarque

60 —

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIAH HIRSH

1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WATCH THOSE ENTRIES

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ 8 5

♥ Q J 6 4 2

♦ Q 6 3

♣ J 7 4

WEST

♠ 3

♥ 9 7 5

Police seal off Ciskei border after massacre

BISHO, South Africa (R) — South African and Ciskei police sealed off the border to the homeland Tuesday after the massacre of African National Congress (ANC) supporters trying to enter the Ciskei Monday.

About 1,000 members were gathered on the South African side about 50 metres from the border at dawn after an all-night vigil nearby in remembrance of the dead.

Up to 28 people were killed and nearly 200 wounded when Ciskei homeland soldiers opened fire, on some 60,000 ANC marchers at the border Monday in an outburst that could have a drastic effect on South Africa's negotiations for democracy.

More ANC members were gathered at a sports stadium at nearby King William's Town where Monday's ill-fated march had started.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, South Africa's Nobel Peace Prize winner, knelt in prayer Tuesday at the border spot where Ciskei homeland troops massacred the anti-apartheid demonstrators.

Archbishop Tutu squeezed between South African police riot control vehicles to kneel at the bloodstained spot where an African National Congress (ANC) official had lain Monday with his head shattered by a Ciskei bullet.

He then crossed the border into Ciskei to meet the homeland's military ruler, Brigadier Oupa Gqozo.

The Anglican archbishop told Reuters: "I contacted him last night. I want to talk to him about the church proposal for a referendum (on Gqozo's rule) which we believe could be a resolution to

this problem."

Both sides had earlier rejected the church proposal for a referendum to gauge the level of support for Brig. Gqozo.

ANC President Nelson Mandela cancelled a meeting with the U.S. Harlem Dance Group in Johannesburg and headed for the Bisho area on South Africa's southeast Indian Ocean coast for a crisis meeting and visit to the massacre site.

The violence erupted after some 60,000 ANC supporters and their allies arrived at the border Monday with the declared aim of forcing the resignation of Brig. Gqozo, who seized power in a 1990 military coup.

Before crossing the border, Archbishop Tutu — accompanied by Khoza Mgojo, president of the South African Council of Churches, and Grahamstown Bishop Philip Russell — addressed about 1,000 ANC supporters who had spent the night around small campfires close to the border mourning their dead.

"We have come to demonstrate our solidarity, not with the ANC, but with our people in their struggle for justice and peace. We have come to wipe your tears," Archbishop Tutu told the crowd, gathered along the road in bush country under a hot, cloudless sky.

Ciskei troops pulled back during the night, but at dawn they were redeployed with automatic rifles along the border and around key government buildings close to the frontier of the nominally independent homeland.

Hundreds of Ciskei troops Monday had opened fire on ANC demonstrators marching about

five kilometres from King William's Town in South Africa to the Ciskei capital Bisho.

"We are blaming (President F.W.) De Klerk for this and we do it without hesitation. The Ciskei is the creation of the apartheid regime and they are responsible for the atrocities committed in its name," ANC Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa said.

He said Mr. De Klerk should dismiss Brig. Gqozo.

Ciskei Defence Chief Brigadier Marius Oelschig said his troops returned fire after a group of marchers attacked them with handgrenades and hand grenades.

South African Law and Order Minister Herens Kriel, who monitored the events from King William's Town, said the ANC did not honour the terms of a court order giving them permission to march.

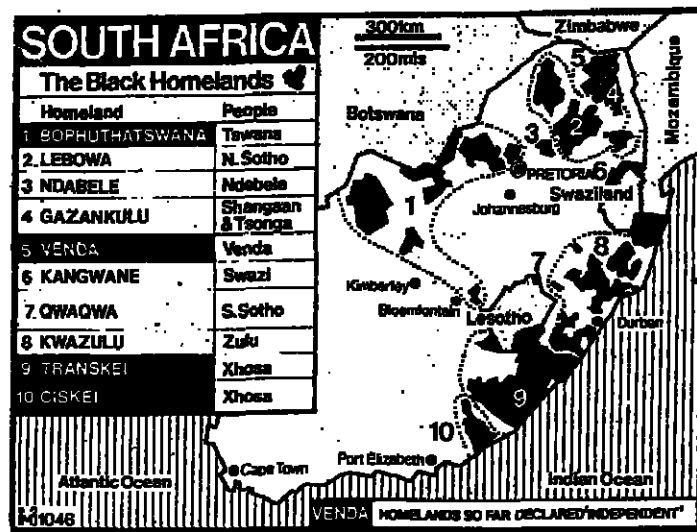
"The ANC must accept direct responsibility for this tragedy," he said.

Mr. Ramaphosa said the slaughter would deal a new blow to attempts to revive stalled all-race democracy talks, but he said details of the ANC response would be decided later.

Communist Party leader Ronnie Kasrils, who led the first group to draw Ciskei fire, said in an interview Monday he defied a court order confining the protest to a stadium just across the Ciskei border.

"We were going to Bisho. That was the plan made by the ANC leadership," Mr. Kasrils said.

He said soldiers opened fire without warning or provocation. "There is no way they could have thought their lives were in



danger. They just hurled this barrage of lead straight into our group.

"You see people fall around you and you just think you are going to die," Mr. Kasrils said.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Tuesday troops carried out a deliberate, calculated massacre in the South African homeland of Ciskei as part of an attempt to cling to power and privilege.

Mr. Evans, commenting on the killing of up to 28 blacks during the march told reporters: "I have seen the television footage and I have been appalled by it. This was a deliberate, calculated, horrifying massacre."

"It shows, I guess, the way in which the apartheid system has perverted and corrupted so much in South Africa," he said.

"It shows the determination of those who have benefited from the apartheid system to cling on to power and privilege at any cost," he added.

The Commonwealth secretariat Monday condemned the killing of the 28 protesters as horrific and wholly unjustified.

"As long as bloodshed and

violence poison the process of political dialogue and negotiation, there can be no peaceful solution," said the group's secretary general Chief Emeke Anyaoku.

The reported killings and wounding by Ciskei troops of unarmed men and women in Bisho is a horrifying incident which can have no justification whatsoever and must be condemned by all," he said in a statement issued in London.

He said: "This (massacre) gives added urgency to the proposals by the international community, including the Commonwealth, to assist by deploying observers who can help bring to an end this senseless cycle of violence."

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said on Britain's Channel 4 television news: "The South African government has got to get a grip on these forces in the Ciskei and indeed in the other homelands."

He said in an interview: "It is absolutely necessary that they get back around the negotiating table. South Africa is sliding down a hill and only a negotiated settlement can prevent that."

Stop Yeltsin's Japan trip, Russian expert suggests

MOSCOW (R) — A top official who helped arrange President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo next week suggested Tuesday it should be cancelled because there was no chance of solving a protracted territorial dispute with Japan.

Mr. Yeltsin's talks in Tokyo will concentrate on four islands at the south end of the Kurile chain which Soviet troops seized at the end of the World War II and which Japan wants back.

But Professor Yuri Stolyarov of the Institute of Far Eastern Studies, part of a working group which helped prepare the visit, said it would be best if Mr. Yeltsin stayed in Moscow.

"I think perhaps Yeltsin should not go. The conditions are not right to solve this question," he said in an interview.

"Such a problem between countries can either be solved by force or on the basis of trust, cooperation and friendship. Force is obviously excluded and since we don't have the above conditions the question can't be solved."

Japan has turned down Russian requests for large-scale financial aid until the issue of the islands, which it calls the Northern Territories, is resolved. Tokyo has also refused to sign a peace treaty formally ending the war.

Prof. Stolyarov criticised what he said was Japan's "narrow, selfish diplomacy" aimed only at solving its own problems.

"Conditions here are bad and Japan is a wealthy neighbour. If Japan was a real friend, it would do as the Americans did during the war, when they gave military aid, and helped us. That is friendship, partnership."

"Look what Japan is doing. How can we trust Japan in this instance?" he said.

Interfax News Agency Tuesday published an opinion poll showing 60 per cent of Russians opposed giving the islands back to Japan.

Only seven per cent of the

1,656 people questioned by Russia's Centre for Public Opinion and Research approved.

Conservatives accuse Mr. Yeltsin of preparing to "sell" the islands in exchange for short-term economic aid.

The Russian leader, speaking in a satellite television broadcast to Japan Sunday, said Tokyo could not expect him to hand back any of the islands.

Scholar Japanese policymakers Monday said Tokyo would not pledge any fresh aid to Russia during Mr. Yeltsin's visit Sept. 13-16.

The governor of the Far Eastern Russian region which includes the islands Monday insisted Mr. Yeltsin should on no account hand them to Japan.

A group of conservative Russian Japanologists lent their weight to the debate in an open letter to Mr. Yeltsin published on Tuesday, saying the Kuriles had to remain part of Russia.

"We think that any compromise to Japan's claims to the islands would be groundless from an historical, juridical, political and economic point of view," said the open letter, published in the hardline Sovetskaya Rossiya newspaper.

The 19 academics, all historians and academics from the legal and economic sphere, said the return of the islands would compromise Russia's defences and spark a wave of territorial demands by other countries.

"The security and national interests of Russia, not abstract, vague and subjective judgements about legality and justice, should be the main point of orientation for you at the Tokyo talks," the letter said.

"We are convinced that territorial concessions of the kind demanded by Japan today would contradict common sense and the national interests of Russia as well as international law — it is fraught with the danger of irreparable damage."

Whatever the result of the elections," he said.

Senior officials from the observer countries Portugal, United States and Russia are in Luanda at present.

They were due to meet President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, who is also leader of the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) and Jonas Savimbi, leader of UNITA (National Union For the Total Independence of Angola), Tuesday.

Sihanouk defends UNTAC chief

BANGKOK (R) — Cambodian leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk Tuesday rallied to the defence of the head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission, who has been under fire from the Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction.

"In my view Mr. Akashi is doing a good job but the Khmer Rouge are not satisfied," Prince Sihanouk told reporters at Bangkok Airport on his arrival from the non-aligned summit in Jakarta.

Khmer Rouge Radio last week broadcast demands for the resignation of Yasuaki Akashi, the Japanese head of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

It accused him of being biased towards the Phnom Penh government and its Vietnamese allies. The Khmer Rouge were ousted from power by Vietnam in 1979 after a four-year reign of terror that cost a million lives.

The Khmer Rouge statement was attributed to a previously unknown group of Cambodian exiles said to be based in Canada, but it reflected earlier attacks on Mr. Akashi by the radical guerrilla group.

Mr. Akashi has criticised the group for its refusal to honour the peace accord it signed along with the three other Cambodian factions in Paris last October.

Prince Sihanouk, the former king and guerrilla leader now acknowledged by all as neutral head of state, said the Khmer Rouge interpreted the accord differently from UNTAC.

He was satisfied with the peacekeepers' performance, he said.

The Thai foreign minister, who was at the airport to greet Mr. Sihanouk, also criticised the Khmer Rouge.

"It is not appropriate for any Khmer faction to demand the resignation of the UNTAC chief, who has been appointed by the U.N. secretary general. It is not the Khmer duty to call for the ouster of any U.N. official," Mr. Arsa Sarasin said.

Meanwhile the Japanese cabinet gave final approval Tuesday to plans to send more than 1,800 peacekeeping soldiers to Cambodia — Japan's first troop deployment overseas since World War II.

Japan is to send eight soldiers as ceasefire monitors later this month, followed by 600 army engineers and 75 police officers in mid-October, the government decided.

The engineers are to be replaced by another contingent after six months, with a third group waiting in the wings.

The plans were worked out in line with a formal request last week from U.N. Secretary General Butros Ghali.

The troops are to be deployed mainly in southern Cambodia to repair roads and build bridges.

Karabakh ceasefire does not exist, both sides say

ROME (R) — Azeri and Armenian negotiators said Tuesday no ceasefire had been negotiated in the disputed Transcaucasian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh despite reports of a truce accord last month.

The ceasefire worked out in the Kazakh capital of Alma-Ata on Aug. 27 only applied to parts of the border between the two ex-Soviet republics — and not to the Armenian-populated territory inside Azerbaijan, they said.

Italy, official mediator in the dispute, is trying to secure agreement on a ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh at a new round of 11-nation talks which began Monday.

Kept in the dark about the Alma-Ata ceasefire, which was negotiated while Italian mediators were touring the region, Italy has always said last month's truce did not apply to Nagorno-Karabakh.

Ethnic fighting began in Nagorno-Karabakh in 1988 and more than 2,000 people have been killed so far. The territory's predominantly Armenian population has been ruled by Azeris since 1923.

"The ceasefire only applies to hot spots along the border between Azerbaijan and Armenia — we still have to talk about Nagorno-Karabakh," said Nadir Mekhiev, chief Azeri delegate at the Rome talks.

"It is completely wrong to say a ceasefire has been agreed in

Nagorno-Karabakh," echoed Armenia's chief negotiator Kristian Der-Sapian. "It only covers parts of our border."

Although Azerbaijan says Nagorno-Karabakh has been invaded by an Armenian expeditionary corps, Armenia insists its troops are not involved and has always said it had no mandate to negotiate on behalf of the enclave's Armenian community.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians proclaimed their independence last year, but have so far won no international recognition not even from their brethren in Yerevan.

The enclave's Armenian forces were reported to have launched a major counter-attack last Saturday to recapture positions seized by the Azeri army in an offensive begun last June.

Armenian and Azeri diplomats said a protocol defining the exact areas along the border where the ceasefire applied had been signed at Idzhevsk in northern Armenia on Sept. 3. The accord reached in Alma-Ata came into force on Sept. 1.

Mekhiev said Russian news agencies had been mistaken in reporting a border ceasefire would come into force on Sept. 15. He and his Armenian counterpart said this was the date by which Armenian and Azeri representatives should meet in Alma-Ata to fix a meeting between the two countries' presidents.

Bush, Clinton on attack as race enters home stretch

NEW YORK (Agencies) — U.S. presidential candidates George Bush and Bill Clinton went on the attack in speeches before crowds celebrating the Labour Day holiday, the traditional start of the final stretch of the campaign.

New opinion polls showed Democrat Bill Clinton's lead over the Republican President narrowing somewhat with election day less than two months away on Nov. 3.

Both candidates were in the important election battleground of the U.S. midwest, where some analysts believe the election will be decided.

"At a country fair in Waukesha, Wisconsin, near Milwaukee, Mr. Bush told several thousand well-wishers his priority is to 'build economic security for the working men and women' of America, while Mr. Clinton was trying to exploit economic hardships 'to scare American workers so he can slip into office with that failed tax-and-spend philosophy of the past.'"

"Today is the kickoff day for these campaigns. My opponent will kick off his campaign with a message of fear, telling us our nation is in decline — wrong absolutely wrong, Governor Clinton," Mr. Bush said.

Mr. Clinton tried to shift media attention to Mr. Bush's alleged role in the Iran-contra scandal, away from allegation that Mr. Clinton avoided the draft during the Vietnam War.

But substantive issues were barely heard in the din of a shouting match over who had the right to campaign on the legacy of

Harry Truman, the long-dead U.S. president who came on behind for a stunning victory over Thomas Dewey in 1948.

Mr. Bush claimed rights to Truman because he is fighting Congress and trying to make a comeback as did. To him it doesn't matter that Truman faced an opposite situation — a Democrat running against a Republican-controlled Congress.

"Harry Truman ran as an underdog just as I am, and he liked it, and so do I. And Harry Truman admitted when he made a mistake. God knows I've made the same thing, and I've admitted it," said Mr. Bush.

Mr. Bush said Truman would "find little in common with Governor Clinton, a man who hedges or ducks on almost every tough issue."

But in a rousing speech to an enthusiastic rally on the town square in Truman's home town of Independence, Missouri, Mr. Clinton said Truman would never try to assign blame the way Mr. Bush has over the U.S. recession.

Mr. Harry Truman had a sign on his desk — you remember what it said? The buck stops here. But when George Bush became president, he put that sign in the basement and put another sign on his desk. It said: The blame begins here," Mr. Clinton said.

On Iran-contra, the scandal during the Reagan administration in which proceeds from arms sales to Iran were diverted to the Nicaraguan contras against the wishes of Congress, an irritated Clinton said:

"There is a memorandum of a

Clashes die down near Sarajevo Airport

SARAJEVO (R) — Fighting between Serb and Muslim forces raged around Sarajevo Airport overnight but the clashes died away by dawn Tuesday.

The Bosnian capital was largely quiet later in the morning although sporadic sniper fire echoed across the city.

Diplomats have stepped up their efforts to resume relief flights into the besieged capital whose 380,000 inhabitants have been hard hit by suspension of a U.N. humanitarian airlift.

The U.N. move, which followed the presumed downing of an Italian relief plane in the Bosnian mountains last Thursday, has cut a lifeline for food, medical supplies and blankets.

U.N. officials said there would be renewed contacts with the warring Serb, Muslim and Croat factions to try to restore water supplies to the city, interrupted early Saturday.

The problem appeared to be power supplies to a pumping station near battlelines outside the city which has been under siege by Serb forces opposed to Bosnian independence.

Supplies were restored for three hours Monday but then were cut again by Serbs at the key suburb of Ilidza after they came under attack from Muslim forces.

The U.N. said it has drawn up a two-week plan to restore electricity and water supplies gradually but so far there had been no agreement among the warring factions.

People have been drinking rainwater and doctors have said there could be epidemics of cholera and hepatitis.

Military action around the airport Monday was so intense it would have remained closed even if the U.N. had given the green light for them to resume.

International mediators in Geneva have invited all rivals in the Bosnian conflict to talks Wednesday on security guarantees for relief plans.

U.N. Secretary-General Bout-

ros Ghali was to review proposals for an expanded peacekeeping force in Bosnia, estimated at close to 8,000 troops and support staff to escort food and medical convoys.

There are already 1,500 U.N. peacekeepers in Sarajevo.

A spokesman for Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, who chair the U.N.-European Community conference in Geneva on the Yugoslav war, said Bosnia's Serbs and Croats as well as the mainly Muslim government would be asked to attend Wednesday's meeting.

Proposals being studied for increasing the security of relief flights included a ban on military flights in the area, confining the airspace only to humanitarian aircraft and possible placing of anti-aircraft missiles under U.N. control.

Mr. Vance and Lord Owen said they would visit the region this week.

International mediators have given Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic's forces until next weekend to place their heavy weapons around four key Bosnian cities — Sarajevo, Gorazde, Bihać and Jajce — under U.N. control.

Mr. Karadzic agreed at peace talks in London last month to notify the U.N. of his forces' heavy weapons positions around the four cities in 96 hours and place them under U.N. control.

He told Belgrade Television Monday night that he did not consider this an ultimatum "but rather a deadline."

Mr. Karadzic said Bosnian Serbs will place their heavy weapons around four key cities under U.N. control by Thursday, two days ahead of a deadline set by international mediators, their leader said Tuesday.

"They (the weapons) will be under U.N. supervision by Thursday. We will meet our obligations even earlier than the deadline," Mr. Karadzic told Reuters by telephone.

Refugees attacked in at least 7 German towns

POTSDAM, Germany (AP) — Rightist radicals attacked refugees in at least seven German towns and cities, police said Tuesday.

In a newspaper interview, the head of the country's internal security agency said he fears the violence that started on Aug. 22 will continue, especially in economically depressed eastern Germany.

Eckart Werthebach, head of the Constitutional Protection Office, said there were skinheads and neo-Nazis in east Germany even under Communist rule.

"Now they are more fanatic, brutal and politically polarised than in the west," Mr. Werthebach told the Mitteldeutsche Zeitung newspaper of Halle.

Of the seven attacks reported overnight, five took place in eastern Germany.

Potsdam police southwest of Berlin said radicals set fires that gutted two cars owned by refugees outside an asylum shelter in the town of Schulzendorf in Brandenburg State.

No one was injured and the attackers fled before police arrived.

About 40 young radicals threw firebombs at a refugee shelter and smashed windows on two cars parked nearby before escaping in the Harz region town of Quedlinburg, police said.

Attacks also took place at asylum shelters in the northeastern towns of Anklam where five radicals attempted to torch a refugee home, and in Bohlen where two men threw firebombs at a home for foreigners.

Youthful rightists also threw stones at a refugee shelter in the town of Geisa in Thuringia state, police said. No injuries were reported and damage was minor.

Unknown assailants threw firebombs at an asylum shelter in Roersath near the Rhine River city of Cologne. One of the firebombs crashed through a window at the shelter, but occupants quickly put out the blaze and no one was injured, police said.

In the Ruhr industrial town of Muelheim, radicals threw a practice grenade through the window of a refugee shelter. The grenade exploded in the air causing minor damage in the home but no one was injured, police said.

COLUMN

U.K. Lord attacks media's abuse of royal family

LONDON (R) — A former head of the English judiciary has condemned the media's obsession with the royal family as an abuse of their human rights. Lord Hailsham, a former Lord Chancellor, said recent story about the Duchess of York and Princess Diana were "serious infringements" of the right to privacy set out in the European Convention of Human Rights. He said it was perverse of the press to have given wide prominence to intrusive stories and then to wonder solemnly how long the monarchy could survive publication of such intimate details of the private lives of the royal family.

Russians in a lather over soap star's visit

MOSCOW (R) — A performance of Swan Lake at Russia's famous Bolshoi Theatre came to a virtual halt after a Mexican soap opera star put in an appearance. ITAR-TASS News Agency said, TASS said spectators had spotted Veronica Castro, who plays the heroine in the 249-part serial The Rich Also Cry, during the interval of the Bolshoi performance. "The performance was on the verge of disruption. Virtually all spectators rushed to her box," TASS said. The Mexican saga, made 13 years ago, has kept millions glued to their television screens in Russia recently.

Emir to pass up N. Zealand state lunch for a snooze

WELLINGTON (R) — A state luncheon planned for the Emir of Kuwait's visit to Wellington has been cancelled because he will need a siesta. Sheikh Jaber al Ahmad Al Sabah, one of the world's richest men, is visiting New Zealand to thank the people for their support of Kuwait during the Gulf war. The Emir was to be guest of honour at a banquet to which 250 guests had been invited. A consignment of Prime New Zealand lamb had been ordered and 33 staff at parliament's restaurant, Bellamy's, had been primed. But advance members of the 100-strong Kuwait entourage said that because the monarch was leaving after lunch Thursday, he would need a rest first.

World's oldest zoo saved from extinction

LONDON (R) — The world's oldest zoo has been saved from extinction by popular appeal and a big cheque from the Emir of Kuwait. London Zoo, whose star inmates have included a Panda called Chi-Chi and a gorilla named Guy, is over a cash crisis and has escaped planned closure at the end of this month. There was public outcry in Britain at plans unveiled in June to close the zoo, set up in 1828 in London's Regent's Park as the brainchild of Sir Stamford Raffles, founder of Singapore. The threat of closure sparked debate over whether caged tigers and elephants should be a thing of the past or kept for future generations.

Mellor says sex allegations are the bottom

LONDON (R) — The British culture minister linked to an actress in a sex scandal earlier this year faced a fresh round of embarrassment Tuesday when one newspaper alleged he enjoyed being spanked by his former mistress. "I shall maintain by silence on this matter, this is a clear example of chequebook journalism," David Mellor said when asked about Monday's allegations that he had made love in Chelsea soccer kit and recited Shakespeare in the nude to Antonia De Sanctis. In July, "Minister for fun" Mellor was pilloried in the press about an affair with the actress but his offer to resign was rejected by Prime Minister John Major.

Japan tallies record number of centenarians

TOKYO (R) — Japan will have more than 4,000 centenarians by the end of this month, the highest number since records began, the Health and Welfare Ministry said Tuesday. It estimated there would be 4,152 men and women aged 100 or above by Sept. 30, up 327 from a year earlier. The ministry, which issues the figure to mark the aged day on Sept. 15, said it was the 22nd consecutive increase since the trend started in 1970.

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